



## DHS cuts NYers off from 'trusted traveler' programs

By BEN FOX

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — New York residents will be cut off from "trusted traveler" programs that speed their re-entry into the country, a senior Homeland Security official said Thursday, blaming a new state law that prohibits immigration agents from accessing motor vehicle records.

Tens of thousands of New Yorkers will face the inconvenience of slower re-entry

because of a law that acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Ken Cuccinelli says puts public safety at risk by preventing federal agents from quickly accessing vehicle and criminal records.

"I know other states are looking at laws like this," Cuccinelli said. "We would urge them to reconsider."

**Continued on next page**



In this Aug. 14, 2019 file photo, The Statue of Liberty is shown in New York.

Associated Press



Sharing Menu \$50 per couple



2 appetizers



1 Main dish



1 Dessert

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 - Eagle Beach, Aruba - www.asiemperu.com - Closed Mon  
Info: + 297 525 4000 (Ext 172) / 588 3958 - reservations@asiemperu.com



## Craving a Good Steak?



One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas, Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire... Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

It's time for **El Gaucho** Steak



Closed on Sundays

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677  
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm



Only **6** Luxury **Villas**  
In the **Best** Location on **Eagle Beach**  
**Azure Beach Residences**

Visit our sales office at Azure Beach Residences.  
**+297 5946395** www.azure-aruba.com





**Continued from front**

The decision to freeze New Yorkers' access to Global Entry and three other programs, which the New York governor dismissed as "extortion," reflects an escalation of the conflict between President Donald Trump and states and cities that have declared themselves sanctuaries for immigrants in the country without legal authorization.

New York's "Green Light" law, which went into effect in December, allows people to get a driver's license even if they don't have legal residency in the United States. It includes a provision prohibiting the Department of Motor Vehicles from providing any data to entities that enforce immigration law unless a judge orders it to do so.

That makes it a target for Trump, who has made immigration enforcement a cornerstone of his presidency and knows it's a subject that motivates his base. The sweeping move came a day after Trump slammed New York in his State of the Union address.

The DHS action on trusted travelers could have economic consequences. It applies to nearly 30,000

commercial truck drivers enrolled in a program that eases their crossing at four U.S.-Canada ports of entry in upstate New York.

Cuccinelli told reporters on a conference call that the New York law endangers the public and federal agents, who can't quickly confirm someone's identification, check for fugitive warrants or see if a person has a criminal record.

"Obviously, we would urge New York to undo that law and restore some sanity to its own attempts to help preserve public safety," he said.

New York state officials and other administration critics dismissed the DHS action as a political stunt, noting the trusted traveler programs don't require a driver's license. Participants must submit a passport, fingerprints and undergo background checks, allowing them streamlined return to the U.S.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo defended the Green Light law, saying it improved public safety by ensuring drivers have licenses regardless of their immigration status. The state barred immigration agents from accessing the



**Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, center, and director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health Dr. Anthony Fauci, right, listen as acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Ken Cuccinelli speaks during a press briefing on the coronavirus, in the briefing room of the White House, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, in Washington.**

**Associated Press**

records to prevent the government from using DMV records to deport people in the country without legal residency.

The governor said Homeland Security made no effort to work with state officials to work out an alternative way to access criminal records before deciding to suspend New Yorkers from the trusted traveler programs. "They didn't do that," he said, "They just issued a letter press release immediately because it's all politics."

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a New York Democrat, called the action "political retribution" by the federal government. "There is no factual basis for this policy," she said. "Its true design is to punish New York for embracing diversity and inclusion." Rep. Bennie Thompson, a Mississippi Democrat who chairs the House Homeland Security Committee, said suspending access to Global Entry and the other programs will undermine border security and make travel less efficient. "Congress needs to respond to this abuse of power," he said.

Global Entry and the three other traveler programs enable people to enter the U.S. without having to pass through the standard immigration and customs checkpoints.

The permits must be re-

newed every five years. Cuccinelli said about 175,000 New York residents in trusted traveler programs will be kicked out over the course of 2020 as their permits expire.

At the U.S. Customs House in lower Manhattan, where there is an office in which Global Entry interviews are held, a federal employee was turning away people Thursday if they were New York residents.

DHS will also immediately remove about 50,000 people who were given conditional approval and were awaiting completion of an interview for full membership along with 30,000 who have submitted an application and hadn't yet been approved.

The agency said the export of vehicles from New York will also be "significantly" delayed because the Green Light law hinders its ability to validate documents used to establish ownership.

Cuccinelli said DHS is considering additional penalties against New York and evaluating the progress of a similar proposal in Washington state. "They should know that their citizens are going to lose the convenience of entering these trusted traveler programs just as New York's did," he said. Other states have allowed people in the country without legal authori-

zation to obtain a driver's license, but New York is the only state that has banned the Department of Motor Vehicles from sharing records with DHS, Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for the agency, said on Twitter. Immigration and Customs Enforcement recently sent subpoenas to law enforcement in Denver and New York seeking information on immigrants they hope to deport, and federal prosecutors in New York say they're prepared to take the subpoena to court to enforce contempt charges if law enforcement doesn't comply.

DHS officials have said efforts to interfere with immigration enforcement keep them from upholding U.S. laws and endanger public safety by thwarting the deportation of criminals. □

**pureocean**  
SEASIDE DINING

IT'S 6 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE...

JOIN US!  
HAPPY HOUR DAILY  
FROM 6-7 PM

SUNSETS | DRINK SPECIALS | FREE PARKING

Tantalize your taste buds with delicious  
NEW bar bites starting at just \$8 and the  
perfect wine, cocktail or beer!

Located at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort  
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 75, Palm Beach  
For more information, call 586-6066 ext. 7002

**DIVI ARUBA PHOENIX**  
BEACH RESORT • ARUBA

**ARUBA**  
*Clean*

HELP US  
KEEP  
ARUBA  
CLEAN

*is more*  
**DUSHI**



ARUBA'S MOST REWARDING CASINO EXPERIENCE

*Let Us Dazzle Your Night at the Casino!*

Enjoy exciting experiences and unique rewards at  
The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba featuring a spectacular selection  
of the latest slot machines, most attractive progressives, 15 table games,  
sports betting kiosks and luxury bingo.



## \$1 MILLION CASH GIVEAWAY QUALIFY & WIN

Receive one (1) raffle ticket:  
For every eighty (80) points on slot machines/\$40 theoretical win.  
With your dinner purchase at Casa Nonna New York or BLT Steak.



Visit the Casino VIP Desk at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba  
or call 527-2276/77.

*Casa*  
**NONNA**  
NEW YORK, NY

**THE CASINO**  
AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ARUBA



ARUBA'S MOST REWARDING CASINO EXPERIENCE

## \$1 MILLION CASH GIVEAWAY

# 2020

**THE CASINO**

AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ARUBA

## Green tea party? State licenses Boston's 1st marijuana shop

By PHILIP MARCELO

**BOSTON (AP)** — Boston's first retail pot shop and Massachusetts' first minority-owned marijuana business was approved Thursday, more than a year after the first shops opened elsewhere in the state.

The state's Cannabis Control Commission on Thursday voted to give final license approval to Pure Oasis, a pot shop proposed by two local black entrepreneurs.

The approval comes more than three years after voters approved the nation's first marijuana law aimed at encouraging black, Latinos and other people harmed by the war on drugs to participate in the new industry. Commission Chairman Steven Hoffman called the vote "an important milestone" and wished the company luck.

Kobie Evans, a co-owner of Pure Oasis, said the shop hopes to open its doors in

about a month in the city's diverse Dorchester neighborhood.

"It's been a long, challenging journey, but it's all been worth it," he said after the vote. "We're excited to be where we are right now, but we'd also like to see more opportunities for people like us so that it's not such a challenging road for people that come after us." Black and Latino groups have voiced their frustration for months at the slow pace of approvals for minority-owned businesses, both in Massachusetts and nationwide.

Pure Oasis joins 118 marijuana companies that have earned a final state license following Thursday's meeting, which included votes on dozens of other applicants.

More than 300 others have also secured conditional approvals, but only 11 of those are companies like Pure Oasis that have been



Entrepreneurs Kevin Hart, of Randolph, Mass., left, and Kobie Evans, of Boston, right, speak to reporters after attending a meeting of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Worcester, Mass.

Associated Press

certified under the state's equity programs for minority and disadvantaged marijuana businesses, according to the commission. Marijuana activists in Massachusetts and elsewhere have also voiced concern about the low number of minorities working in the industry at large.

Nearly 75% of Massachu-

setts' marijuana workforce is white, while Black and Latino people represent less than 12%, according to statistics released Thursday by the commission.

Kevin Hart, the other co-owner of Pure Oasis, believes the local industry's demographics will improve as more pot businesses are opened in Greater Boston's

more diverse communities. Massachusetts currently has more than 30 retail marijuana locations, but only one is in Greater Boston: New England Treatment Access, in the affluent suburb of Brookline.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, who has faced criticism for his city's slow rollout of pot shops, also signed into law last year an ordinance overhauling the local process for vetting marijuana businesses.

Among other things, the new law creates the state's first equity fund aimed at assisting minority entrepreneurs hoping to break into the industry.

Walsh tweeted Thursday that he was proud that Boston would be home to the state's first "Economic Empowerment Candidate," and said his administration will "continue to prioritize equity, diversity and local ownership in this new industry." □



# DNC chair calls for 'recanvass' of Iowa results after delays

By STEVE PEOPLES, JULIE PACE and BRIAN SLODYSKO  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The chairman of the Democratic National Committee on Thursday called for a "recanvass" of the results of the Iowa caucuses, saying it was needed to "assure public confidence" after three days of technical issues and delays.

"Enough is enough," party leader Tom Perez wrote on Twitter.

With 97% of precincts reporting, Pete Buttigieg, a former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders are nearly tied for the lead, and both candidates have declared themselves victorious.

The Associated Press said Thursday that it is unable to declare a winner in the contest. Beyond technical issues and Perez's concerns, the Iowa Democratic Party has yet to report results from some satellite caucus sites, from which there are still an unknown number of state delegate equivalents to be won.

The state party apologized



In this Nov. 20, 2019 file photo, Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Tom Perez, speaks before a Democratic presidential primary debate in Atlanta.

Associated Press

for technical glitches with an app that slowed down reporting of results from Monday's caucuses and has spent the week trying to verify results. However, it was unclear if the party planned to follow the directive of the national leader to recanvass those results, a process that would likely require state officials to re-

view caucus math worksheets completed at more than 1,600 caucus sites to ensure the calculations were done correctly and matched the reported results.

Iowa chairman Troy Price suggested in a statement Thursday that he would only pursue a recanvass if one was requested by a

campaign.

The caucus crisis was an embarrassing twist after months of promoting Iowa as a chance for Democrats to find some clarity in a jumbled 2020 field. Instead, after a buildup that featured seven rounds of debates, nearly \$1 billion spent nationwide and a year of political jockeying, caucus day ended with no winner and no official results.

Campaigning in New Hampshire, Sanders called the Iowa Democratic Party's management of the caucuses a "screw-up" that has been "extremely unfair" to the candidates and their supporters.

"I really do feel bad for the people of Iowa," said Sanders, who added that it was "an outrage that they were that unprepared."

Iowa marked the first contest in a primary season that will span all 50 states and several U.S. territories, ending at the party's national convention in July.

As first reported by The New York Times, numerous precincts reported results that contained errors or were inconsistent with party rules. For example, the AP confirmed that dozens of precincts reported more final alignment votes than first alignment votes, which is not possible under party rules. In other precincts, viable candidates lost votes

from the first alignment tally to the final, which is also inconsistent with party rules.

Some precincts made apparent errors in awarding state delegate equivalents to candidates. A handful of precincts awarded more state delegate equivalents than they had available. A few others didn't award all of theirs.

The trouble began with an app that the Iowa Democratic Party used to tabulate the results of the contest. The app was rolled out shortly before caucusing began and did not go through rigorous testing.

The problems were compounded when phone lines for reporting the outcomes became jammed, with many callers placed on hold for hours in order to report outcomes. Party officials said the backlog was exacerbated by calls from people around the country who accessed the number and appeared intent on disrupting the process.

"There was a moment in the night where, it became clear, 'Oh, the phone number just became available to the entire country,'" said Iowa state Auditor Rob Sands, who was answering calls for the party. "It was a pretty big problem."

President Donald Trump relished in the Democratic turmoil.

"The Democrats, they can't count some simple votes and yet they want to take over your health care system," Trump said at a White House event Thursday celebrating his impeachment trial acquittal. "Think of that — no, think of that."

The chaos surrounding the reporting breakdown seems sure to blunt the impact of Iowa's election, which typically rewards winners with a surge of momentum heading into subsequent primary contests. But without a winner called, Democrats have quickly turned their focus to New Hampshire, which holds the next voting contest on Tuesday.

The results released so far show Buttigieg and Sanders locked in an exceedingly close contest. □



**The New Downtown Living**  
**Get your Own Ocean**  
**Front Condo**

**Over 70%  
Already  
Sold**

(+297) 594 6395  
Weststraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba  
sales@harbourhousearuba.com

www.harbourhousearuba.com



## Ill Cali cartel drug kingpin seeks early prison release

By CURT ANDERSON  
AP Legal Affairs Writer

**MIAMI (AP)** — One of the world's major cocaine kingpins, a co-founder of Colombia's Cali Cartel that smuggled some \$2 billion in drugs to the U.S., is seeking compassionate early release from a federal prison because of ill health.

Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela, 81, is asking a Miami federal judge to let him return to his family in Colombia because he suffers from prostate and colon cancer. Rodriguez-Orejuela has served about half of his 30-year prison sentence under a 2006 plea deal. "He has been in various jails for the past 25 years," his attorney, David O. Markus, said in an email Thursday. "Our system allows judges to be compassionate, and that's what we are asking for here."

Although not as notorious as Pablo Escobar and the Medellin cartel, Rodriguez-Orejuela and his brother, Miguel, fashioned a sophisticated global smuggling enterprise known for using innovative techniques to hide cocaine in all sorts of legitimate shipments — even such items as frozen vegetables and coffee packages.

Officials estimate they smuggled at least 200 tons (181,000 kilograms) of the drug into the U.S. during the 1990s, or about 80% of the nation's supply at the



In this Nov. 7, 2002 file photo, Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela leaves the Combita maximum security prison, in Tunja, 60 miles northeast of Bogota, Colombia.

Associated Press

time.

Federal prosecutors oppose the release of Rodriguez-Orejuela, contending he has gotten good medical treatment in a North Carolina prison and does not deserve to get out. They cite the huge scope of his crimes.

"Releasing Rodriguez-Orejuela early jeopardizes public safety by diminishing the seriousness of his offense and would send entirely the wrong message about leading such a large scale drug trafficking (operation) and the punishment that must come with it," Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Hirsch said in court papers.

Overall, the U.S. prosecuted about 100 Cali cartel members. □

## San Francisco to open tent 'sobering' center for meth users

Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — A center for people experiencing methamphetamine-induced psychosis will open in San Francisco to help them get sober in a safe place, the latest effort to address the city's rising drug overdoses and rampant street drug use.

The center, believed to be the first in the U.S. specifically for people who are high on methamphetamine, will open late this spring on a city-owned parking lot in the Tenderloin neighborhood, where streets are littered with syringes and addicts congregate, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Thursday.

Mayor London Breed said the 24-hour center will get high people off the streets and connect them with addiction treatment and other services. Each tent will have 15 beds.

"The reality is that drug use and overdoses are on the rise, and doing nothing is not an option," Breed said in a statement. "The public drug use we see every day hurts those who are suffering from addiction as well as the surrounding communities."

The spike in methamphetamine addiction in the city has been a main driver for crowding of the psychiatric emergency room at San Francisco General Hospital, overwhelming medical staff and sometimes resulting in patients being released back to the streets before they are deemed



In this April 26, 2018, file photo, a man lies on the sidewalk beside a recyclable trash bin in San Francisco.

Associated Press

ready.

From 2017 to 2018, 47% of all visits to the psychiatric emergency room were related to methamphetamine use. Officials hope the center will relieve some of that pressure.

People with methamphetamine-induced psychosis often have paranoia, hallucinations and behave aggressively.

The center, aimed at helping people come down from drug highs, will be staffed by nurses and counselors who will give addicts advice about longer-term help like treatment beds, shelter beds and how they should take care of themselves mentally and physically.

HealthRight 360, one of the largest San Francisco drug treatment providers, will run

it.

A driver with a van will be posted outside the center to pick up people showing signs of methamphetamine-induced psychosis. Officials said the center may eventually accept patients from hospital emergency rooms, but will begin by accepting people only from the streets.

San Francisco is also among several cities in the country considering opening supervised injection sites to address drug addiction.

Advocates say injection sites have been successful in Canada, Europe and elsewhere and that when combined with on-site recovery resources, they can help prevent overdoses and help users.

But injection sites are illegal under U.S. federal law. □

## Sheriff: 3 dead in plane crash in Louisiana

**CHATHAM, La. (AP)** — A small plane crash in Louisiana on Thursday afternoon has left three people dead, according to authorities.

Jackson Parish Sheriff Andy Brown told news outlets the plane was heading

from Jackson, Mississippi, to Shreveport in northwest Louisiana. It crashed north of Chatham on Louisiana Highway 34.

The Monroe Regional Airport tower lost contact with the plane around 2:10 p.m.

Brown said there were three people on the plane. He later confirmed that all three were killed.

The plane was a Cessna. Further details regarding the crash weren't immediately known. □

**HH**  
FINE WINES AND SPIRITS  
SPECIALTY STORE

PONTON 75A  
ORANJESTAD, ARUBA  
+297 588 7676

BUSINESS HOURS:  
WEDNESDAY to SATURDAY  
10AM - 6PM

**Dr. Konstantin Frank**

**ANTINORI**  
Di Giovanni

**penner-ash**  
WINE CELLARS

**CATENA ZAPATA**

**FLOWERS**  
Vineyards & Winery

**TPW**  
THE PRISONER  
WINE COMPANY

**FAUST**

**GAJA**

**E.GUIGAL**

WWW.HHFINEWINESANDSPIRITS.COM



# Auditor: More than \$4M stolen from Mississippi welfare funds

By **JEFF AMY** and **EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS**  
**Associated Press**

**JACKSON, Miss. (AP)** — Mississippi's state auditor said Thursday that investigators believe at least \$4 million in federal welfare money was stolen by the former head of the state welfare agency and others in the nation's poorest state. At least \$48,000 of that paid for a luxury drug rehabilitation program for a former pro wrestler, according to indictments issued Wednesday, which also alleged a politically connected non-profit administrator and her son took more than \$4 million — including more than \$2 million invested in two Florida medical companies.

Republican Auditor Shad White said his office is still seeking to determine the scope of the suspected public embezzlement, expanding its audit of the Department of Human Services to a wider time frame. "This is a sprawling conspiracy," White said. "We're going to continue to look to find additional monies that have been lost or stolen."



Republican Gov. Tate Reeves speaks with reporters on a variety of issues, including the state prison system and the state auditor's office investigation of the former director of Mississippi's welfare agency and four other people, accused of embezzling millions in federal money meant for the poor, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Jackson, Miss.

**Associated Press**

Those indicted and arrested are the department's former director, John Davis; the ex-wrestler, Brett DiBiase; former Department of Human Services employee Latimer Smith; Nancy New, who is owner and director of the Mississippi Commu-

nity Education Center and New Learning Resources; her son Zach New, who is assistant executive director of the education center; and Anne McGrew, an accountant for the education center.

It's unclear if any of them have lawyers representing them. All were released from jail Wednesday without having to post bail. Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves praised the auditor Thursday, saying the investigation has uncovered "what appears to be a truly disgusting abuse of power." "It makes me sick to think that resources for people in poverty were being embezzled by a powerful government official," said Reeves, who became governor in January after eight years as lieutenant governor.

Federal welfare money was once spent mostly on cash assistance to poor families, but after changes in the 1990s the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families money is given to states in block grants, and states can use the money on other activities meant to help people. The liberal-leaning Center for Budget and Policy Priorities found Mississippi spent about \$120 million in state and federal money

on the assistance program in 2017, with only \$9 million going to cash assistance. DiBiase, 36, is the son of former pro wrestler Ted DiBiase, who was known as the "Million Dollar Man." Indictments allege Davis conspired with Nancy New to send \$48,000 in block grant money to pay for Brett DiBiase's drug rehabilitation in Malibu, California, in early 2019. Payments were made to a company owned by Brett DiBiase supposedly for his teaching classes about drug abuse, with Davis and Smith falsifying invoices and other records, prosecutors say.

The News are associated with a series of nonprofits and schools. Mississippi Community Education Center, operating as Families First for Mississippi, received more than \$44 million in government grants from mid-2014 to mid-2018, according to nonprofit tax filings. Amounts spiked to \$12.9 million and \$26.7 million in the last two years, as Davis outsourced a large portion of Mississippi's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families spending to the group.

The money was intended to provide youth development, parenting education, workforce readiness,

literacy promotion, addiction education and obesity education. Then-Gov. Phil Bryant appeared at the ribbon-cutting of the Jackson office in 2016 with Davis and New. In his last State of the State address in 2019, Republican Bryant called the group "a model of success for thousands of Mississippians and one that is being emulated all across America."

Reeves said he has received campaign contributions from some of those indicted in this case, and he acknowledged that one of his 2019 campaign commercials was filmed inside a school Nancy New owns. Reeves didn't have a total for the contributions Thursday but said his campaign will put the money into a separate account. Reeves said if the donors are convicted, he will give the campaign contributions to the state to cover some of the cost of lost welfare money. Otherwise, he said his campaign will give the money to a charity. Nancy New and Zach New are alleged to have transferred \$2.15 million from the center's accounts to make investments in medical companies Prevacus and PresolMD during 2019. Indictments allege they transferred more than \$2 million from the center's bank accounts to accounts of a for-profit company they control.

Davis stepped down in July and Bryant replaced him on an interim basis with Christopher Freeze, former leader of the FBI in Mississippi.

In most recent large public corruption cases in Mississippi, criminal charges have come in federal court, but these charges came in state court.

U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst said although federal money was allegedly stolen, his office had been kept in the dark until Hinds County District Attorney Jody Owens met with him just before indictments were issued.

Owens and White said state court indictments were a faster path to stopping ongoing embezzlement. □

**WACKY WAH'S**  
PALM BEACH #33-A [WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM](http://WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM)  
**STEAK. SEAFOOD. B.B.Q. & FUN!**

Ex-Hadicurari BBQ & Grill with the same owner's.  
We do our own daily fishing so we serve the freshest seafood on the Island.

**Very reasonable price, exciting menu and NO SERVICE CHARGE**  
**Dinner from 5:30 - 10:00**  
Monday - Saturday

**FRESH CATCH & SEAFOOD**  
We are located close to the High-rise hotel's at walking distance.  
RESERVATION SUGGESTED  
**TEL: 586-7333**



# Walmart shooting suspect charged with federal hate crimes

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO and CEDAR ATTANASIO**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The man accused of killing 22 people and wounding two dozen more in a shooting that targeted Mexicans in the border city of El Paso, Texas, has been charged with federal hate crimes. Patrick Crusius, 21, has been charged with 90 counts under federal hate crime and firearms laws for his role in the Aug. 3 shooting that authorities said was aimed at scaring Hispanics into leaving the United States, according to an indictment unsealed Thursday.

Federal prosecutors were expected to announce the charges against Crusius of Allen, Texas, later Thursday at a news conference in El Paso. Crusius is facing the death penalty on a state capital murder charge. He pleaded not guilty last year.

The shooting happened at a time when immigration officials were trying to manage a crush of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and there was political battle over their treatment. El Paso was the epicenter of the influx. President Donald Trump has made cracking down on immigration a hallmark of his administration and the polarizing topic makes headlines around the world.

Eight Mexican nationals were among the victims, and the indictment accuses Crusius of targeting people because of their "actual and perceived national origin." The Walmart store is popular with shoppers from nearby Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, just on the other side of the Rio Grande from El Paso.

David Lane, a Colorado-based lawyer representing Crusius in the federal case,

said Thursday morning that he had not yet seen the indictment but hopes federal prosecutors don't seek his client's execution.

"Part of the evolution of our society involves understanding that justice is not synonymous with vengeance, because vengeance disregards the essential humanity in all of us and brutalizes us all," Lane said. "Part of my job here is to hopefully convince the Department of Justice that they are not the department of vengeance."

The federal grand jury that indicted Crusius found his alleged crimes came "after substantial planning and premeditation." He bought a Romanian-made AK-47-style rifle and 1,000 rounds of hollow point ammunition online more than six weeks before he drove 10 hours overnight from his grandparents' house in a Dallas suburb to El Paso to carry out the attack, according to the indictment.

The federal indictment comes as El Paso marks the six-month anniversary of the shooting. Last weekend, the commuter town of San Elizario planted 22 oak trees in honor of the victims. Local news outlets aired remembrances.

The federal charge follows Crusius' state indictment last fall on a capital murder charge, which could also bring a death sentence. He has been held without bond since the shooting and kept isolated from other prisoners, on suicide watch for at least two months after the shooting. Crusius surrendered to police after the attack, saying, "I'm the shooter," and that he was targeting Mexicans, according to an arrest warrant.

In court documents, prosecutors said Crusius published a screed online

shortly before the shooting that said it was "in response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas." It cited, as inspiration, a mass shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand, that killed scores of Muslim residents of that country.

The document parroted some of Trump's immigration policy rhetoric. El Paso residents such as former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination this year, accused Trump of promoting harmful stereotypes and fueling the idea that the increase in migrant crossings was a coordinated "invasion" by Latinos.



In the is Oct. 10, 2019 file photo, El Paso Walmart shooting suspect Patrick Crusius pleads not guilty during his arraignment in El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

The president has denied inciting violence.

The charges being announced Thursday are the latest by federal prosecutors following high-profile violent incidents. The Justice Department has brought federal hate crimes charges against a man suspected in a Ha-

nukkah machete attack in New York in December that wounded five people; a man who opened fire at a synagogue in Pittsburgh last year; and a man who killed a woman when he drove into a crowd of protesters at a 2017 white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. □



## PLAY FOR FREE. GET REWARDED.

Download the **WindCreekCasino.com** app today.  
Play for FREE to get amazing rewards like FREE Play, dining credits, and hotel stays, available only at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino.  
Register with event code **!RATODAY** to receive



Redeemable at Wind Creek Crystal Casino.

\*Limit one prize per registered account. Offer expires 12/31/2019. Email verification is required to complete registration. May be redeemed for either FREE Slot Play or FREE Match Play at tables.



FIND YOUR  
WINNING MOMENT.®

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino • WindCreekAruba.com  
©2019 Wind Creek Hospitality. See PLAYER SERVICES for details.



# Chinese doctor who sounded the alarm about the virus dies

By KEN MORITSUGU

**BEIJING (AP)** — A Chinese doctor who got in trouble with authorities in the communist country for sounding an early warning about the coronavirus outbreak died Friday after coming down with the illness.

The Wuhan Central Hospital said on its social media account that Dr. Li Wenliang, a 34-year-old ophthalmologist, was "unfortunately infected during the fight against the pneumonia epidemic of the new coronavirus infection."

"We deeply regret and mourn this," it added.

Li was reprimanded by local police for "spreading rumors" about the illness in late December, according to news reports. The outbreak, centered in Wuhan, has now infected over 28,200 people globally and killed more than 560, triggering travel restrictions and quarantines around the world and a crisis inside the country of 1.4 billion.

The World Health Organization tweeted: "We are deeply saddened by the passing of Dr Li Wenliang."



In this Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, photo, a medical worker in a protective suit looks at patients who diagnosed with the coronaviruses arrive at a temporary hospital which transformed from an exhibition center in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province.

Associated Press

We all need to celebrate work that he did" on the virus.

Within a half-hour of announcing earlier Friday that Li was in critical condition, the hospital received nearly 500,000 comments on its social media post, many of them from people hoping

Li would pull through. One wrote: "We are not going to bed. We are here waiting for a miracle."

Li was among a number of medical professionals in Wuhan who tried to warn colleagues and others when the government did not, The New York Times re-

ported earlier this week. It said that after the mystery illness had stricken seven patients at a hospital, Li said of them in an online chat group Dec. 30: "Quarantined in the emergency department."

Another participant in the chat responded by wondering, "Is SARS coming again?" — a reference to the 2002-03 viral outbreak that killed hundreds, the newspaper said.

Wuhan health officials summoned Li in the middle of the night to explain why he shared the information, and police later forced him to sign a statement admitting to "illegal behavior," the Times said.

"If the officials had disclosed information about the epidemic earlier," Li said in an interview in the Times via text messages, "I think it would have been a lot better. There should be more openness and transparency."

In other developments in the outbreak:

## YOUNGEST PATIENT

A newborn in China became the youngest known person infected with the virus.

The baby was born Saturday in Wuhan and confirmed positive just 36 hours after birth, authorities said. But precisely how the child became infected was un-

clear.

"The baby was immediately separated from the mother after the birth and has been under artificial feeding. There was no close contact with the parents, yet it was diagnosed with the disease," Zeng Lingkong, director of neonatal diseases at Wuhan Children's Hospital, told Chinese TV.

Zeng said other infected mothers have given birth to babies who tested negative, so it is not yet known if the virus can be transmitted in the womb.

## MORE HOSPITAL BEDS

China finished building a second new hospital Thursday to isolate and treat patients — a 1,500-bed center in Wuhan. Earlier this week, another rapidly constructed, 1,000-bed hospital in Wuhan with prefabricated wards and isolation rooms began taking patients.

Authorities also moved people with milder symptoms into makeshift hospitals at sports arenas, exhibition halls and other public spaces.

All together, more than 50 million people are under virtual quarantine in hard-hit Hubei province in an unprecedented — and unproven — bid to bring the outbreak under control.

In Hong Kong, hospital workers demanding a shutdown of the territory's border with mainland China were on strike for a fourth day. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam announced a 14-day quarantine of all travelers entering the city from the mainland starting Saturday, but the government has refused to seal the border entirely.

## QUARANTINED CRUISE SHIPS

Two docked cruise ships with thousands of passengers and crew members remained under 14-day quarantines in Hong Kong and Japan.

Ten passengers confirmed to have the virus were escorted off the Diamond Princess at the port of Yokohama near Tokyo, after 10 others were taken off the previous day. About 3,700 people were confined aboard the ship. □

Join us at **RED FISH**

Quality Seafood Restaurant

tripadvisor

Orange Plaza - Italiestraat 50  
Tel: 280-6666 - [www.redfisharuba.com](http://www.redfisharuba.com)  
Tuesday to Sunday - 11:30am to 10:00pm





## Sunset Cruise

Includes

- 2 Hour sailing trip
- Tasty hors d'oeuvres
- Professional & fun-loving crew
- Unlimited open bar
- Amazing Caribbean sunset
- Panoramic view of beaches

US\$ **59.00**

BOOK  
ONLINE

[www.pelican-aruba.com](http://www.pelican-aruba.com)

OR CALL DIRECT  
(+297) 587-2307

PRESENT THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$10 OFF PER COUPLE

Pelican Adventures



People gather at a border crossing between Serbia and Hungary in Kelebija, Serbia, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020.

Associated Press

## Some 200 migrants at Serbia-Hungary border seeking entry

By IVANA BZGANOVIC  
Associated Press

**KELEBIJA, Serbia (AP)** — About 200 hundred migrants, including children, gathered Thursday at Serbia's border with Hungary to demand to be allowed entry into the European Union country. Braving freezing evening weather and biting winds, the migrants camped at the Kelebija border crossing, blocking traffic. Wrapped in blankets or sleeping bags, many migrants were lying or sitting on the ground, holding their personal belongings close by. The children shouted "Open borders!" while some of the migrant banners read "we are refugees, not criminals" or "we are running from war, not hunger." The border crossing was closed to traffic.

There are several thousands migrants, who are fleeing war and poverty in their countries, stuck in the Balkans while seeking to move to the more prosperous nations in Western Eu-

rope. Hungary has erected two rows of wire fences at the border to prevent their entry.

"We ask European Union to open the borders, please, please open borders," said Amr Abohatem from Yemen.

"They should ask our governments why people come here!"

Most migrants in Serbia spend months in the state camps and attempt to cross the borders several times. They often rely on people smugglers to help them cross to Hungary or another EU member state, Croatia.

Hungary has recently reported a spike in attempted illegal entry by migrants. A Hungarian security guard fired three warning shots when several dozen migrants tried to enter Hungary late last month.

Most migrants come from countries such as Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan. Hundreds of thousands passed through the Balkans in 2015-16 when about one million people entered Europe. □



Firefighters inspect a derailed train carriage, near Lodi, northern Italy, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020. Italian authorities say a high-speed passenger train has derailed in northern Italy, killing two railway workers and injuring 27 people.

Associated Press

## Experts ponder human error in Italian high-speed train crash

By ANTONIO CALANI and  
LUCA BRUNO  
OSPEDALETTO LODIGIANO,  
Italy (AP)

A high-speed passenger train derailed in northern Italy before dawn Thursday, killing two railway workers and injuring 28 other people as its engine broke off and careened into a work vehicle on an adjacent track. Authorities are looking into human error linked to track maintenance work as a possible cause.

The state-railway Freccia Rossa train went off the rails on the heavily used Milan-Bologna line while traveling at nearly 300 kph (180 mph), Civil Protection chief Angelo Borrelli told state radio.

Maintenance work had been carried out on a nearby track switching area less than two hours before the derailment, Prosecutor Domenico Chiaro told reporters at a news conference. The train that derailed was

the first train to pass through the area after the work was done and "the switch was placed in a position it shouldn't have been," he said.

"We're looking into the hypothesis of human error that could be linked to the maintenance work," as a possible cause for the accident, Chiaro said, stressing that no conclusions had been reached yet.

Sabotage or a terror attack have been ruled out, the prosecutor said and investigators have recovered the train's black box recording. "The (engine of the) train rammed a series of obstacles" before finally stopping, Chiaro said, including a nearby building used for storing railway equipment and tools. The engine car ended its fatal trajectory flipped around 180 degrees.

State railways said the two fatalities were train engineers. Prefect Marcello

Cardona said another railroad worker was seriously injured. Among the 27 passengers hurt in the derailling, one was seriously injured, authorities said.

"The engine car kept going, hundreds of meters, at high speed," Cardona told reporters at the crash site near the town of Ospedaletto Lodigiano.

Chiaro said the crash occurred about 5:50 a.m. (0450 GMT), several minutes after a scheduled stop as the train traveled from Milan south to Bologna.

Police said the train had about 30 passengers. Only one passenger was in the first car, a business-class car, that ended up on its side. The train passenger cars further back remained upright.

One passenger, an unidentified man interviewed by state TV, likened the moment of the crash to being on a roller-coaster for 20 seconds. □



# Amnesty finds Saudi anti-terror court a weapon of repression

By AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

Saudi Arabia has used a secretive court established to try terrorism cases as "a weapon of repression" to imprison peaceful critics, activists, journalists, clerics and minority Muslim Shiites, including some who were sentenced to death and executed, Amnesty International said Thursday.

The London-based rights organization examined court documents and spoke to activists and lawyers for its 53-page report, which sheds light on the secretive proceedings of the Specialized Criminal Court.

The report found that trials before the court were "a mockery of justice" and its judges "willing accomplices" in suppressing those who dare speak up.

Established in 2008 to try terror-related crimes, the court started trying critics of the government in 2011 under broadly worded counter-terrorism laws that criminalize acts such as insulting King Salman and the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman.



In this Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, photo, women carry their shopping bags past a banner showing Saudi King Salman and his Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, left, outside a mall in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia.

Associated Press

Amnesty said some of the common charges in proceedings included "disobeying the ruler" of Saudi Arabia, "questioning the integrity" of officials, "seeking to disrupt security and inciting disorder by calling for demonstrations" and

"disseminating false information to foreign groups" — crimes that can hinge on speaking to human rights groups or the use of social media.

"Our research gives lie to the shiny new reformist image Saudi Arabia is trying

to cultivate," said Heba Morayef, Amnesty's Mideast and North Africa regional director. She said the government has used the special court "to create a false aura of legality around its abuse of the counter-terror law to silence its critics."

Amnesty also said that the government's rhetoric about reforms under the crown prince stands in stark contrast to reality in the kingdom where women's rights activists and dozens of perceived critics of the young prince remain imprisoned or face trial on vague charges related to national security. Some, like reformist cleric Salman al-Awda, face the death penalty in trials before the court.

Prince Mohammed faced intense international scrutiny after the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in 2018. A Saudi criminal court sentenced five to death for the killing, but did not hold any high-ranking officials responsible.

Under the rule of his father, King Salman, the crown prince has consolidated state security-related powers, giving expansive powers to the newly-established Public Prosecution and Presidency of the State Security, both of which report directly to the king, to arrest, investigate, interrogate and refer individuals to the anti-terror court. □



Palestinian protesters hurl stones towards Israeli soldiers during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020.

Associated Press

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The chief architect of the U.S. blueprint to resolve the decades-old conflict between Israelis and Palestinians on Thursday blamed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for soaring tensions and violence in the occupied West Bank since the plan's release last

week.

Jared Kushner, the son-in-law and adviser to President Donald Trump who spent nearly three years working on the plan, said leaders who are ready for a state "don't call for days of rage and encourage their people to pursue violence if they're not getting what they want."

He said he thinks Abbas

## Architect of U.S. peace plan blames Palestinians for violence

"was surprised with how good the plan was for the Palestinian people, but he locked himself into a position" by rejecting it before it came out. Abbas is putting forward old talking points when the situation on the ground has changed and "this may be the last chance to resolve the situation," Kushner said.

He told a small group of journalists after briefing the U.N. Security Council over lunch at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations that the U.S. proposal may be the last chance because the rate of expansion of Israeli settlements may preclude a contiguous Palestinian state.

Right now, Kushner said, "it's very, very difficult to have a contiguous state where

you can drive from the top to the bottom," but it is still possible.

He said the most constructive thing the Palestinians can do is to sit down with the Israelis and go over the plan "line by line."

"If they would like to meet, we're happy to do it, but we're not going to chase them," Kushner said.

He called his meeting with the Security Council "very constructive," with lots of questions.

Kushner said he and his team will follow up with the establishment of a commission to draw up a detailed map and meetings with European and Middle Eastern countries to further explain the plan.

The U.S. plan, unveiled by President Donald Trump on

Jan. 28, envisions a disjointed Palestinian state that turns over key parts of the West Bank to Israel, siding with Israel on key contentious issues including borders and the status of Jerusalem and Jewish settlements.

The Palestinians seek all of the West Bank and east Jerusalem — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mid-east war — for an independent state and the removal of many of the more than 700,000 Israeli settlers from these areas.

But under terms of the "peace vision" that Kushner oversaw, all Israeli settlers would remain in place, and Israel would retain sovereignty over all of its settlements as well as the strategic Jordan Valley. □





In this July 10, 2019 file photo, U.S. journalist Glenn Greenwald checks his news website at his home in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.  
Associated Press

## Brazil judge rejects hacking accusation against Greenwald

Associated Press

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — A judge in Brazil's capital on Thursday dismissed accusations that journalist Glenn Greenwald was involved in hacking phones of officials, following weeks of criticism that his prosecution would infringe on constitutional protections for the press. Prosecutors last month leveled accusations that Greenwald helped a group of six people hack into phones of hundreds of local authorities, saying his actions amounted to criminal association and illegal interception of communications. Since last year, Greenwald's online media outlet The Intercept Brasil has published a series of excerpts from private conversations on a messaging app involving current Justice Minister Sérgio Moro. The attempt by prosecutors to criminalize Greenwald's work had prompted swift backlash from national and foreign journalist associations, freedom of expression advocates and Brazil's national bar association. Those groups said prosecutors were abusing their power to persecute Greenwald, an attorney-turned-journalist who lives with his husband and children in Rio de Janeiro. Greenwald's lawyers called the allegations "bizarre" and said they challenged a previous ruling in the case

by the Brazilian Supreme Court protecting freedom of the press. Thursday's decision by the Brasilia-based judge, Ricardo Leite, invoked that earlier ruling by Supreme Court Justice Gilmar Mendes, who barred investigations of Greenwald and The Intercept Brasil in relation to the alleged hacking. "My feeling is that the decision of Justice Gilmar Mendes adopted a wide and extensive sense and it does include the interpretation of blocking any action of investigation by the state, both in the investigation phase and in the judicial one," Leite wrote in his decision. While rejecting the claims regarding Greenwald, Leite accepted those against the six alleged hackers, who will now face charges as defendants. The journalist said in a statement that he welcomes "the fact that this investigation will not move forward," but adds that he believes "this decision is insufficient to guarantee the rights of a free press." "We seek a decisive rejection from the Supreme Court of this abusive prosecution on the grounds that it is a clear and grave assault on core press freedoms. Anything less would leave open the possibility of further erosion of the fundamental freedom of the press against other journalists," Greenwald said. □



In this Feb. 15, 2019 file photo, Dennyse Vadell sits between her daughters Veronica, right, and Cristina holding a digital photograph of father and husband Tomeu who is currently jailed in Venezuela with five other executives from Houston-based Citgo, in Katy, Texas, Friday.  
Associated Press

## Venezuela rounds up U.S. oil executives as Guaidó visits D.C.

**MIAMI (AP)** — Six American oil executives under house arrest in Venezuela were rounded up by police hours after President Donald Trump met Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's chief opponent at the White House, according to family members of the men. Alirio Zambrano said early Thursday that the executives of Houston-based Citgo were abruptly taken from their homes last night by the SEBIN intelligence police. Zambrano, the brother of two of the six detained men, said their current whereabouts are unknown. "We demand to know they are safe but more importantly their freedom!" Zambrano said on social media, adding that he was very worried about the detainees. The State Department and Maduro's government have yet to comment. But the move comes two months after the men were granted house arrest and just hours after Trump welcomed opposition leader Juan Guaidó to the White House in a show of support for his flagging, year-old campaign to oust Maduro. In Washington on Thursday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi stood alongside

Guaidó and called for the release of the American oil executives. Maduro condemned Trump's embrace of Guaidó while socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello, who is widely seen as the second most powerful person in Venezuela's government, vowed to retaliate for the meeting. "Every time they do something, we're going to turn harder to the left and see who squeals," Cabello said Wednesday night in his weekly TV program. The six men were hauled away by masked security agents while at a meeting in Caracas just before Thanksgiving in 2017. They had been lured to Venezuela in order to attend a meeting at the headquarters of Citgo's parent, state-run oil giant PDVSA. The group flew out on a corporate jet. They included Tomeu Vadell, vice president of refining; Gustavo Cardenas, head of strategic shareholder relations as well as government and public affairs; Jorge Toledo, vice president of supply and marketing; Alirio Zambrano, vice president and general manager of Citgo's Corpus Christi refinery; Jose Luis Zambrano, vice president of shared serv-

es; and Jose Angel Pereira, the president of Citgo. In recent weeks, speculation has swirled that Maduro's government may release the men in a bid to mend ties with the Trump administration, which has been aggressively pushing for his removal. The men are awaiting trial on corruption charges stemming from a never executed plan to refinance some \$4 billion in Citgo bonds by offering a 50% stake in the company as collateral. Prosecutors accuse the men of maneuvering to benefit from the proposed deal. But many believe the men, five of whom are naturalized U.S. citizens and the other a legal resident, are being held as political bargaining chips as relations between the U.S. and Venezuela have deteriorated. They cite as evidence of irregularities the decisions by Venezuelan Judge Rosvelin Gil to postpone 15 straight times a preliminary hearing. U.S. Vice President Mike Pence in April called for the men's release after meeting with family members at the White House. "We are going to stand with you until they are free and until Venezuela is free," he said at the time. □



# Students adrift after quake as Puerto Rico schools shuttered

By **DÁNICA COTO**

**SANTA ISABEL, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Class was about to start when a father drove up to a gazebo that Nydsy Santiago had converted into a makeshift preschool and pulled her aside.

Could she please, he wondered, take his daughter as one of her students? Santiago declined with a heavy heart and explained that she was only authorized to teach her own 23 students, who are among more than 194,000 children in Puerto Rico left out of school nearly a month after a 6.4-magnitude earthquake hit the island's southern region and forced officials to permanently close dozens of public schools.

"I hope this goes back to normal for everyone," said Santiago as she chased after papers that the wind blew away on a recent morning.

But few believe that will happen. Classes in this U.S. territory were supposed to start Jan. 9, and while 331 schools opened late as a result of the quake, 61% of the island's 856 public schools remain shuttered as a growing number of critics blame the island's Department of Education for the situation.

Mercedes Martínez, president of Puerto Rico's Federation of Teachers, said it's unacceptable that no alternatives have been found for children who attend one of the 525 schools that remain closed.

"The government of Puerto Rico has been negligent from the beginning," she said. "They have not been quick. They have not been strategic. They don't have a plan on how to start the semester at this point."

The situation has led to an increase in homeschooling and prompted some teachers like Santiago to voluntarily find an appropriate outdoor location and resume classes with permission from parents. Santiago began scouting her hometown of Santa Isabel after 19 of 23 parents responded with a range of excited emojis when she proposed the idea last month in a



In this Tuesday, Feb. 4 photo, Martin G. Brumbaugh School kindergarten teacher Nydsy Santiago gives class to her students under a gazebo at a municipal athletic park in Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

Whatsapp group.

Santiago drove around the southern coastal town and considered holding class in a nearby park until she spotted the swings and cement benches. She eventually settled on a small gazebo near a running track owned by the town whose officials supplied her with plastic tables and chairs and even installed white curtains to block out the sun.

The curtains flew over the heads of her students this week as they painted, swatted at clouds of gnats while they laughed and excitedly pointed to a military helicopter that buzzed past them. Watching the scene from afar was fellow kindergarten teacher Esther Cordero, who shook her head as she criticized government officials grappling with the aftermath of a quake that killed one person, destroyed or damaged hundreds of homes and prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to approve a major disaster declaration. "They should have invested immediately in trailers," she said. "And if not that, tarps at least."

Her colleague, Madeline Cruz, a 37-year-old mother of three children whose school remains closed, nodded vigorously.

"The Department of Educa-

tion is not paying attention to this," she said. "There are other alternatives."

The complaints over the government's lack of response echoed those that arose after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm in September 2017, causing more than an estimated \$100 billion in damage and killing an estimated 2,975 people in its aftermath.

The women planned to follow Santiago's lead and hoped to hold classes in other nearby gazebos if they obtained permission from the parents, adding that they were tired of waiting for the government to act.

Eligio Hernández, Puerto Rico's education secretary, did not return messages left with a spokesman despite repeated requests for comment. On Sunday, he announced that another 103 schools were opening this week.

"This process has been a responsible, detailed and thorough one, since the most important thing for us is the health and safety of all members of the school communities," he said in a statement.

Engineers have inspected hundreds of public schools, but ongoing strong aftershocks, like the two 5.0 magnitude quakes that

struck at a shallow depth in the past two weeks, have forced re-inspections as seismologists warn the shaking will continue for weeks. At least 69 schools have not passed inspection, and Hernández has said that Holy Week vacation would be shortened to make up for lost time. Education officials also have said that some schools would run two different schedules to accommodate students from other regions while teachers continue to demand answers as to how the situation would be handled long term.

Amid a lack of response from education officials, some parents have opted to homeschool their children, said Nydia Villanueva, who runs a home schooling support group called Amanecer Educativo. She had an informational talk scheduled for early January on the topic but was about to cancel it since no one had signed up. Then the earthquake struck.

"My phone was blowing up," she said. "In a week and a half, I received more than 240 calls."

Among those who called and decided to start homeschooling her two daughters is Mónica Ortiz from the eastern town of Aguas Buenas, where very limited

damage was reported. She worries about her eldest daughter graduating on time and the impact the delay of classes has had on her 13-year-old, who is a special education student. Ortiz said that she hasn't received any information at all about her daughter's high school, and was only told that her other daughter's middle school is not ready to open and it's unclear when and if it will.

"It's a good thing they didn't rush to open schools," she said. "What I don't find acceptable is that they haven't found an alternative."

Some of the calls Villanueva received were from parents worried that the ongoing inspections of public schools are only to assess damage, not determine whether they can withstand a strong earthquake or have structural weaknesses such as short columns. Still fresh in many parents' minds is the image of a school in the southwest coastal town of Guanica whose two top floors were flattened by the quake just two days before classes were scheduled to start.

Marcos Santana, director of Puerto Rico's Network for the Rights of Children and Youth, said there are plenty of options that don't require four walls.

"We recognize that it's an extraordinary situation, but...the Department of Education clearly did not have a plan for this emergency," he said. "The excuse of not having a building cannot be used for much longer." □





## LOCAL

## A woman's story of Survival Anne Frank's stepsister in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD – The stepsister of one of the most discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust, Anne Frank, will be in Aruba on a special invitation by the Chabad Synagogue of Aruba. Enter the world of Anne Frank as told by her stepsister and childhood friend.**

Eva Schloss, born on May 11, 1929, is an Austrian-English Holocaust survivor memoirist and stepdaughter of Otto Frank, the father of Margot and diarist Anne Frank. Schloss will be travelling from London to share her story of triumph and survival, tolerance and global peace with the Aruban community. Schloss is a trustee of the Anne Frank Educational Trust, an author of three books and the subject of James Still's

play, "And then they came for me." Like her stepsister Schloss went into hiding in Holland until she, along with her family, were betrayed, captured and sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Her father and brother did not survive the ordeal, but she and her mother were barely alive when they were freed in 1945 by Soviet troops. They returned to Amsterdam, and during this time, Schloss and her mother renewed their friendship with Otto Frank, who was at that time contending with the loss of his wife and children, and the discovery of his daughter Anne's diary. Schloss did not talk about her experiences in the concentration camp until after Otto's death in 1980. Having experienced her stepfather's emotional involvement with Anne and the preservation of her memory, she felt compelled to take on the responsibility of keeping Anne Frank's name alive.

Since 1985, Schloss has devoted herself to Holocaust education and global peace. She has encountered her wartime experiences in more than one thousand speaking engagements. Due to her age she is not able to travel much, but she is making an exception and what motivated her to visit Aruba is when she heard that we have a bust of Anne Frank at the Wilhelmina Park in Oranjestad.

The educational speech will be held on March 1st, 2020 at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort and Casino, Grand Morris Lapidus Ballroom, starting at 7pm.

For more information and tickets call (+297) 592-7613 or visit [www.annefrank-aruba.com](http://www.annefrank-aruba.com). □



lgsmiths.com

**LGS**



L.G. SMITH'S  
STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

SURRENDER TO YOUR  
EVERY CRAVING.

As the centerpiece of Aruba's thriving downtown district, L.G. Smith's delivers an unsurpassed steakhouse experience, elevated by our passion, culinary chops and "attitude is everything" mantra.

And join us every Friday for the only Kobe Steak on the island as our chef prepares succulent cuts of rare Kobe Steak paired with an exclusive wine list.

The #1 Steakhouse in Aruba according to Trip Advisor.  
Located in Oranjestad, next to Wind Creek Crystal Casino.  
Open nightly for dinner. For reservations please call 523.6195.



# Support your hometown newspaper in 2020

By Melissa Martin

**OHIO, US — P. T. Barnum declared, "He who is without a newspaper is cut off from his species."**

Before the Internet, social media, cable television, and radio, the hometown newspaper connected residents and neighbors to each other through stories, pictures, and published events.

My grandparents lived in the same house on the same piece of land in the same hollow in the same county for decades. The newspaper was fundamental for them. As a child, I was amazed that a rolled up paper could be unfolded into a large paper with multiple pages. And I liked the feel of the thin paper on my fingertips, and the crinkly sound as the pages turned. My grandpa read the newspaper from cover to cover. My grandma cut

out any pictures or stories about people she knew and saved the newspaper clippings until they yellowed with age. Due to her upbringing in country, she reused almost everything. The older newspapers were used to line the bottom of her birdcages or cellar shelves or to wrap vegetables from the garden to give to neighbors.

The invention of modern technological devices has replaced newspapers for much of the younger crowd. They utilize Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Tumblr, YouTube, Podcasts, Apps, and Internet websites for their information. While change is necessary, it also is scary. "Printer's ink is the great apostle of progress; whose pulpit is the press," declared Horace Greeley. And some things like local newspapers need to remain intact. Michael Con-

nelly lamented, "A newspaper is the center of a community, it's one of the tent poles of the community, and that's not going to be replaced by websites and blogs." I agree.

People still read newspapers. According to a recent online article in Editor & Publisher, a Nielsen Scarborough study suggested "that in an average month, 169 million adults read a U.S. newspaper. They may be reading it in one or more iterations — in print, on the web, via a mobile app, courtesy of an e-newsletter or through a social media news feed."

How do residents show support for their local newspaper? Plain and simple. Pay for a subscription. Whether you read your news in the morning, afternoon, or evening; whether you read your newspapers in print or digital; whether you read national or local newspa-

pers—take time to sprinkle a few words of kudos in an email, text, or card to the dedicated folks in front of and behind the printing presses. Write a Letter to the Editor and express your gratitude. Compliment them on social media. Thank them for coverage of community events, grand openings, council meetings, births, weddings, and funerals, national, state, and local news. Give praise for good journalism. Think about the many employment positions at newspaper offices. From the publisher to the carrier, each person needs appreciation for the teamwork it takes to publish a daily, a weekly, or a monthly newspaper. From the paper version to the online version, it takes diligence to snoop



and scoop events, stories, and happenings.

How does your hometown newspaper celebrate World Press Day? May 3 is the annual date. World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 following a Recommendation adopted at the twenty-sixth session of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991. Long live local newspapers! □

## Travel Tips

**Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix**  
ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on [www.airportaruba.com](http://www.airportaruba.com).



**Melissa Martin, PhD,** is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She resides in US.

## The Faraci's honored as Goodwill Ambassadors



**EAGLE BEACH —**Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Kathlyn & Gary Faraci** from Connecticut, USA. This lovely couple stated that they love the island

very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some additional presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



WIN \$10 UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY THE DAY YOU JOIN THE CLUB!

# 50/30 Friday!

We're giving away **\$50 Free Slot Play**  
to lucky slot and table game players **every**  
**30 minutes** from 7pm to midnight!

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 4am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47  
583.5000 | [casinoalhambra.com](http://casinoalhambra.com)

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

## THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail  
& Dining Outlets, Salon & Spa  
Services, Souvenirs and more.

Subway | Juan Valdez Café  
Dunkin Donuts | Baskin-Robbins  
Fusion Piano & Wine Bar  
TOF Twist of Flavors | Aruba Aloe  
Bijoux Turner Boutique | R-Glass  
Curated Lab | Hungry Piranha  
The Lazy Lizard | The Market  
Shalom Body & Soul Spa

Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood and  
Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

## Fall in love with The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol!



**NOORD —** Tierra del Sol Resort & Golf is proud to invite you to Aruba's first "Premium Casual" dining experience at the newly designed restaurant at Tierra del Sol. The spectacular new design showcases a fashionable color scheme with modern furniture, an expanded outdoor terrace, and a bar overlooking Aruba's beautiful Caribbean Sea and their Robert Trent Jones II golf course.

Tierra del Sol's all-day menu offers a wide variety of wonderfully prepared food at family friendly prices. Whether you wish to enjoy a few of their signature dishes or sample the new menu, you're sure to have a wonderful dining experience at **The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol**.

Their hours of operation are from 10:00am – 4:00pm on Mondays, 10:00am – 10:00pm Tuesday thru



Saturday and 11:00am – 3:00pm for their ever-popular gourmet tasting Sunday Brunch.

And for the ultimate drink special lovers, happy hour will take you to a whole new level of ambiance from 6:00pm – 7:00pm from Tues-

day thru Saturday.

Reservations can be made on their dining page, via phone or via email. ☐

**Tel: (+297)586-7800**

**E: [Restaurant@tierradelsol.com](mailto:Restaurant@tierradelsol.com)**

**W: [www.tierradelsol.com/dining/](http://www.tierradelsol.com/dining/)**





## Neighbors: Trustworthy Doctor & Great Equipped Pharmacy

- Both in walking distance from resorts -



**PALM BEACH — Doctor Lili Beke from the Walk-In Clinic has a solid reputation, built up in more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor. Both tourists and locals feel great with her for the simple reasons that she has the qualities of a great doctor: communicative, skilled, empathetic and trustworthy. Unique is the fact that you can walk into this clinic without an appointment and that the Palm Beach Service Pharmacy she partners up with is literally next door. When you feel sick during vacation you want this out of your system as soon as possible and a convenient solution is forehanded. Don't look any further, help is just around the corner. A one-stop-shopping solution.**

### Top 5 Vacation Illnesses

The most common reasons why patients walk into her clinic sound very familiar. Doctor Beke: "When on vacation you are excited so you mix meals, eat without control and combine this with more alcohol than usual resulting in an upset stomach. Digestion issues occur and when on a diet you can count on it that you will get sick." Throwing up, diarrhea, dehydration will be a bummer on your vacation. "Second occasion why people step in here is medication. They feel sick because they forgot to take their medicines with them or simply think they don't need it on holiday. But of course the body does not work differently only because you are in another place." This happens especially with patients of higher age and many times with blood pressure medication and psychological medicines, the doctor explains. "As we have the pharmacy next door we can solve this in most cases very quick so you will soon feel better again. Then of course we have the allergies, force majeure but still a hassle. Too much sun bathing is another thing causing dehydration and sun burns."

"I strongly advise to buy a new sunblock cream every vacation. Our pharmacy sells the most advanced ones that is environmental friendly, so not damaging the sea life." As fifth most common reason for patients to come see the doctor she mentions exhaustion. "You want to do everything in a short time and by the end of the day the body is exhausted, giving a reversed reaction. Take it easy please, moderate or like we say here: chill." Besides this top 5 the doctor is visited by patients with chronic diseases that often contact her in advance to travelling.

### The Little Ones

With regards to children Dr. Beke advises parents to keep an extra eye on them during vacation. "They are excited, cannot hold control, play all day in the sand and pool and eat a lot of different things. But they are sensitive and you do not want your loved ones waking up in the middle of the night vomiting or with diarrhea." Asthmatic children should be taken care of extra as the sun, water and strong draft on the island can complicate their condition. "Protect the heads of your kids, we are close to the equator and the sun rays are more rectangular thus stronger. The heat and humidity can exhaust the little bodies easily. Let them play under an umbrella preferably and keep drinking water. At the pharmacy you can buy ear plugs to prevent ear infections." The doctor stresses that there is no doubt about drinking tap water. "The water of Aruba is the best. You can drink that without problems. It is excellent. In the States it is prepared with a lot of chemicals, but here it's clean."



### Locals

Doctor Beke has a loyal local patient pool staying with her mainly because of the experience and trust. "They tell me I really listen to them, they feel attended and respected. A patient is a human being, not a casus, unfortunately many times doctors are skilled in the medical part but not on the social terrain." The latter is more and more important, especially with certain groups like teenage girls. "They prefer a female doctor to treat typical woman issues. The desire is attention and to feel at ease." Patients step in for second opinions too. "Everybody has the right to do that, it is their body and their money."

### Pharmacy Convenience

After you pick up your prescription at Dr. Beke's practice, you can go to the Palm Beach Service Pharmacy, right next door. The collaboration between these two results in a quick, efficient and quality service. It's just what you need when you feel the only thing you want is healing. Lennert van der Poel, general manager of the pharmacy, which is part of a group of 5 pharmacies (Botica di Servicio), points out that convenience is not their only unique asset. "We carry a wide variety of medicines from the US, but most of the medicines come from the EU. The prices in the EU are considerably lower than in the U.S." All medicines are European registered with the same standard as U.S. products. "The law in the States allows visitors to get prescribed medicine by a local doctor for up to 6 months, saving them a ton of money.", says van der Poel. Most common medicines requested by visitors are antibiotic, pain killers and anti-allergy medications. However, certain things do not need prescription, such as contact lenses. These don't need a prescription to get them on the island. "We've recently started importing our own 'house brand' of contact lenses called 'Optinova', and the feedback has been amazing", elaborates Van der Poel, "We carry both daily and monthly lenses, which are an ideal substitute if you forget yours when coming on vacation, or even if you would like to take some home, which is why we've seen so many return customers."

Naturally we wish you the healthiest, most wonderful vacation of your life on our Happy Island. But .... In case you are in need of a doctor and a pharmacy, just turn around, walk in and feel welcome to be cured!☐

**Palm Beach Service Pharmacy**  
T: +297 587 1717  
[www.boticadiservicio.com](http://www.boticadiservicio.com)  
[info@boticadiservicio.com](mailto:info@boticadiservicio.com)  
Unit 8 at "The Cove"  
Palm Beach  
Open Mon-Fri 10 am – 4 pm,  
Sat 11.00 am – 4.00 pm



**Aruba Walk-in Clinic**  
T: +297 588 539  
or +297 594 0539(emergency)  
[lgbeke.md@gmail.com](mailto:lgbeke.md@gmail.com)  
Unit 9 at "The Cove"  
Palm Beach  
Open during weekdays  
9am-12pm, 2.30 -5 pm  
(Friday afternoon 2pm- 4.30 pm)  
Saturday, Sunday & Holidays  
2 pm – 4 pm



# SPORTS



## A step ahead? Nike's Vaporfly shoe changing marathon game

By **PAT GRAHAM** and **ALEX-ANDRA OLSON**  
**Associated Press**

To pick the favorites in this year's Olympic marathon, just glance at the shoes of the runners on the starting line.

Anyone wearing Nike's Vaporfly model may already have a head start.

The shoe has shaken up distance running since the world's largest sports apparel company introduced it four years ago, with technology credited for helping runners shave minutes off their times. To some, the advances are an exciting revolution. Others have called it "technology doping" that risks reducing marathons to a shoe competition. "Running is so simple. That's why people love it so much. Now we have a shoe that is blurring that," said Geoff Burns, a runner and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan's School of Kinesiology. The controversy prompted World Athletics, the sport's governing body, to issue its most stringent shoe regulations in decades ahead of the Tokyo Games. But the Vaporfly escaped a ban, and the debate continues. Now, Nike has a new racing shoe that also squeaks by the new rules: The Air Zoom Alphafly Next%, which was unveiled at a flashy fashion show in New York on Wednesday night. Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya wore a prototype of the shoe when he ran the world's first sub-2-hour marathon in an unofficial race in October.

Kenya's Brigid Kosgei was also in a version of the shoe when she set the world record for women in Chicago last year.

**Continued on page 22**

# TAYLOR MADE

## Nick Taylor lead on a gorgeous day at Pebble Beach

Nick Taylor reacts after making a birdie on the ninth green of the Monterey Peninsula County Club Shore Course during the first round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

**Associated Press**  
Page 18



# Nick Taylor takes lead on glorious day at Pebble Beach

**PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)**

— Nick Taylor opened with an eagle, closed with two birdies and made a gorgeous day feel even better with an 8-under 63 at Monterey Peninsula that gave him the lead Thursday in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Most of the interest over three courses in the rotation was at Spyglass Hill, which featured Dustin Johnson and Phil Mickelson, along with five NFL quarterbacks that included Peyton Manning and his recently retired brother, Eli.

The iconic scenery is at Pebble Beach, especially when the surf turns a turquoise hue under so much sunshine.

Taylor went about his business quietly, and most effectively.

Starting on the back nine at Monterey Peninsula, with a chilly breeze at his back, he hit 4-iron to a back pin that settled 4 feet away for an eagle, hit 3-iron out of the rough for a two-putt birdie on the par-5 16th and knew he was playing well when he hit 4-iron to 10 feet on the first hole, a 495-yard par 4 that feels even longer when the air is cold at sea level.

Better still was the finish — a 5-iron back toward the ocean to 5 feet, and then a wind-aided 3-iron from 240 yards on a back tee he had never seen to 20 feet. "A nice start," Taylor said, referring to his 4-iron that set up eagle and the 63 that matched his low round on the tour. "The weather helps out. If it's raining, it's windy,



Nick Taylor, right, is greeted after finishing play on the ninth green of the Monterey Peninsula County Club Shore Course during the first round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

five-and-a-half hours is a long round. But we were very relaxed today, joked all day, and I felt like the mood was great."

He led by two shots to par over Patrick Cantlay (Spyglass) and Chase Seiffert (Pebble Beach), who each had a 6-under 66.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson, whose third-place finish in Saudi Arabia last week was his best result in a year, was slightly disappointed with his 68 at Spyglass because of how well he felt he hit it off the tee.

"I drove it like a stallion," said Mickelson, a phrase he once used in describing his play at the \$9 million pay-per-view match he won against Tiger Woods in Las Vegas.

Cantlay made nine birdies at Spyglass and wasn't even the best putter in his group. Some of his best views of this stunning day along the rugged coastline was watching champion surfer Kelly Slater on the greens, not in the pipe.

"He looked like the best putter on tour today," Cantlay said of his amateur partner. Cantlay, who tried surfing one time as a teenager and wisely gave it up, showed why golf has worked out OK for him. Despite two soft bogeys early in his round and a bogey on the par-5 14th from mud on his ball, he was among the leaders and feeling comfortable with all aspects of his game.

The two bogeys early came

from a chip just behind the green at No. 2 that rolled out some 6 feet by the pin, and a birdie chance that turned into bogey with a three-putt from 18 feet on the skinny green at the picturesque fourth.

The rest of it was solid, and the number of birdies was encouraging.

Cantlay loves the Monterey Peninsula so much he could retire here, and he had even more reason to love it Thursday. His group was first off in the morning, giving them an entire front nine of fresh greens.

"Course was probably the best shape I've ever seen it and we're getting perfect weather," he said. "So yeah, it's great."

Dustin Johnson had a 69 at

Spyglass, while Jordan Spieth checked in at 70. They typically play in the same group that does not lack in entertainment with their amateurs, hockey great Wayne Gretzky and country singer Jake Owen.

Gretzky hit into a bunker off the tee at No. 6, found the first of two bunkers in front of the green and went into the other bunker from there. Spieth delivered the good news: "There's no bunkers left," he said.

Such is the nature of this week, a blend of incomparable scenery and amateurs that include entertainers and athletes, and corporate titans who learn that a net worth topping \$1 billion won't calm nerves over a putt.

Among those at 5-under par were Charley Hoffman, who holed out from the fairway for eagle on No. 4 at Spyglass for the loudest cheer of the day, and Harry Higgs, the PGA Tour rookie who drew Commissioner Jay Monahan as his partner.

Mickelson ultimately was happy to be in range after his 68, though it wasn't looking all that great when he failed to birdie any of the par 5s at Spyglass and had gone 10 holes without a birdie until birdies on his last three holes.

"I let a lot of opportunities slide," he said. "But I shot a 4-under par round and it's not going to hurt me."

The hurt belonged to David Duval, whose scorecard contained a 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. He made one birdie in his round of 84. □

## Court rules fantasy sports contests are illegal gambling

By **MARY ESCH**  
Associated Press

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)** — Daily fantasy contests like those operated by FanDuel and DraftKings face an uncertain future in New York after an appellate court ruled Thursday that a 2016 law legalizing such games violated a constitutional prohibition on gambling. The court upheld a lower court's ruling that the Legislature unlawfully authorized

the activity by classifying it as a game of skill, not chance.

"We're very gratified by the decision," said attorney Neil Murray, who represents the group that brought the lawsuit. "We think the integrity of the New York state Constitution has been upheld."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a bill into law in 2016 that cleared the way for companies like DraftKings

and FanDuel to operate and be regulated in New York. The two fantasy sports companies had agreed to suspend their operations in New York earlier that year in a settlement with then-Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who said their businesses amounted to illegal gambling.

The lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law was coordinated by the group Stop Predatory

Gambling on behalf of four plaintiffs who had suffered personal or family harm from gambling debts.

"The reason New York state has a constitutional prohibition on commercialized gambling promoted by the state is because it's a form of consumer financial fraud," Les Bernal, national director of Stop Predatory Gambling, said Thursday. "This isn't about people having a Super Bowl of-

fice pool. This is about state government cheating and exploiting people, contributing to the huge debt culture in the state."

A spokesman for Attorney General Letitia James said staff are reviewing the decision and haven't decided whether it will be appealed to the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals. Neither the DraftKings nor FanDuel responded to requests for comment. □



**DOUBLE DOWN**  
SPORTS BAR & GRILL
 

- Advanced seat/ Table Reservation
- Fully Air Conditioned
- 34 HDMI TV's
- 6 Giant Screens
- Surround Sound

**FEATURED EVENTS**

**JONES VS REYES**  
WORLD LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP  
**Sat, February 8**

**2020 UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**  
**All Season Long**

**PLACE A BET**  

**SELF SERVICE BETTING**  
MORE MATCHES MORE MARKETS MORE CHOICE

**USING 1ST RACE & SPORTS SELF SERVICE BETTING TERMINAL**

**Eagle Aruba**  
RESORT & CASINO  

**EA**  
EAGLE ADVANTAGE

Must be age 18 to play. Play responsibly.  
www.gamblersanonymous.org

**J.E. IRAUSQUIN BLVD. 248, ARUBA | EAGLE ADVANTAGE | (297) 527-9160 | LOCATED AT THE EAGLE ARUBA RESORT & CASINO**

## LeBron, Giannis choose their teams for the All-Star Game

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

Anthony Davis is LeBron James' teammate in Los Angeles, and they'll be teammates at the All-Star Game in Chicago as well. James took his fellow Lakers All-Star with the No. 1 overall pick of the Feb. 16 game's draft on Thursday, as he matched wits with fellow captain Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks for the second consecutive year. James is looking to go 3-0 as an All-Star captain, after his team beat the one picked by Golden State's Stephen Curry in 2018 and topped the one Antetokounmpo selected last year as well. James had the No. 1 overall pick for this year's first round, the starters' round — since he received the most overall votes from fans.

And Davis, predictably, was the pick.

"I know you're all surprised," James said.

Antetokounmpo made Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, "my African brother," he said, his first pick. James stayed with the LA theme by taking the Clippers' Kawhi Leonard with the third overall pick, and Antetokounmpo stayed with African-born players by selecting Toronto's Pascal Siakam — like Embiid, a native of Cameroon — with the next selection.

James went with a risk next, taking Dallas' Luka Dončić — who is currently dealing with an ankle injury. Antetokounmpo chose Boston's Kemba Walker sixth, James then took Houston's James

Harden seventh, and that left Atlanta's Trae Young as the last remaining starter and automatically going to Team Giannis.

The reserves were next, with Antetokounmpo choosing Milwaukee teammate Khris Middleton with the first selection of the second round. Portland's Damian Lillard was James' first reserve selection, and they were off and running.

The rest of Team Giannis' reserves, in order: Miami's Bam Adebayo (the third pick of the reserve round), Utah's Rudy Gobert (fifth), Miami's Jimmy Butler (seventh), Toronto's Kyle Lowry (ninth), New Orleans' Brandon Ingram (11th) and Utah's Donovan Mitchell (13th).

"Cost me a trip to the finals last year," Antetokounmpo said when he took Lowry.

Team LeBron was filled out, in order, by: Philadelphia's Ben Simmons (the fourth pick of the reserve round), Denver's Nikola Jokic (sixth), Boston's Jayson Tatum (eighth), Oklahoma City's Chris Paul (10th), Houston's Russell Westbrook (12th) and Indiana's Domantas Sabonis (14th) became the last selection.

"There's no wrong choice," James said. "We're all All-Stars, they're all All-Stars for a reason." Added Antetokounmpo: "You cannot go wrong. These are the best 24 players in the world."

NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna Bryant and the seven other victims of the helicopter crash in Southern California on Jan. 26 will be memorialized throughout



Miami Heat forward Bam Adebayo, right, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Montrezl Harrell defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

the weekend.

Players on Team LeBron will all wear No. 2, in tribute to Gianna Bryant. Players on Team Giannis will all wear No. 24, in tribute to Kobe Bryant. And all participants in All-Star weekend will wear a patch with nine stars, commemorating the nine victims.

There is a charity component to the game, with \$500,000 at stake for Chicago-based programs.

The first three quarters will essentially become mini-games, each worth \$100,000 to the winning team. Scores will be reset after the first and second quarters, and then the scores will be added up after the third quarter. From there, the game clock gets turned off for the rest of the night and the first team to add 24 — another nod to Kobe Bryant — to whatever the leading score after

three quarters wins the game and captures another \$200,000 for its charity.

"I love the idea," James said.

James' team will be playing to benefit Chicago Scholars, which assists children trying to become first-generation college students. Antetokounmpo's team will play for After School Matters, which funds after-school activities and summer programs. □



# Aussie Open champ Kenin continues busy stretch with Fed Cup

By TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

EVERETT, Wash. (AP) —

When Sofia Kenin looks back on the past week, it truly is a blur.

As last Saturday night turned to Sunday morning, Kenin was basking in the adulation following her first career Grand Slam tournament title as the winner of the Australian Open after beating Garbiñe Muguruza in the final in three sets.

By Thursday, she was preparing to be the No. 1 singles player for the United States in its Fed Cup match against Latvia.

"It's still sinking in slowly. I'm still processing this," Kenin said. "I was super excited to win a Grand Slam. It was the best experience, the best two weeks of my life. (U.S. captain) Kathy (Rinaldi) told me I'm going to join Fed Cup and it was such an honor. I'm super excited. I told her we're going to do some stuff."

With other Americans like Serena Williams and Coco Gauff grabbing the attention, it was Kenin playing steady, at times gutsy, tennis to land the first major title of her young career last week in Melbourne.

Rest? That'll wait for the 21-year-old now ranked No. 7 in the world.

"I was happy to take time off and come here," Kenin



The United States Fed Cup team, from left, Bethanie Mattek-Sands, Alison Riske, Serena Williams, Coco Gauff, Sofia Kenin, and team captain Kathy Rinaldi pose during the draw for their Fed Cup tennis matches against Latvia, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020 at Angel of the Winds Arena in Everett, Wash. Associated Press

said. "Even though it was a long journey, I would have done anything to represent my country and be with the guys on my team."

The U.S. isn't short on big names for its qualifying matchup in Everett, Washington, against Latvia. The winner of the best-of-five matches will advance to the Fed Cup Finals taking place in Budapest, Hungary, in April under a new format.

Williams is participating for the first time since 2018,

when she returned to tennis following the birth of her daughter. Gauff is taking part in the Fed Cup for the first time, her previous international experience in this event coming at the junior level, where she helped the U.S. to the title in 2018.

So there is plenty of star power for arguably the most significant women's tennis event to come to the area.

"It's definitely important, especially in the United States," Williams said.

"There's only a few tournaments in selective states. In particular, women's tennis does not get to play in a lot of areas. That's one thing that is exciting about Fed Cup, is we can go to states, parts of the country that's not represented."

Williams drew the No. 2 singles spot for the U.S. and will face Latvia's No. 1 Jelena Ostapenko in Friday's second match. Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open champion, is ranked 40th in the world.

"I think it is a great opportunity to share the court with such a great player," Ostapenko said. "She's done like so much for our sport. She was always my idol since I was growing up. Now to play against her, as I said, it's a great opportunity. I'm going to try to enjoy every moment."

Kenin will face Anastasija Sevastova in the opening match Friday. Kenin beat Sevastova earlier this year in Brisbane.

The singles matches will be reversed Saturday, although there can be substitutions, and that's where Gauff could come into the picture.

The U.S. announced Alison Riske and Bethanie Mattek-Sands as its doubles pair for Saturday, leaving Gauff as the only member of the team without a scheduled match. Gauff reached the round of 16 at the Australian Open — including an upset of third-seeded Naomi Osaka — before falling to Kenin in three sets.

"This team is incredibly solid and deep. You don't really go into it thinking about the substitutions right off the bat," Rinaldi said. "We have really strong players all the way through. Obviously health, making sure everybody is fit, ready to go, that's first and foremost the most important thing." □



Boston Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy, right, celebrates with left wing Anders Bjork, center, and center Charlie Coyle after scoring against the Chicago Blackhawks during overtime in an NHL hockey game in Chicago, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020. The Bruins won 2-1.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) —

Charlie McAvoy scored 1:19 into overtime, and the Boston Bruins beat the Chi-

cago Blackhawks 2-1 on Wednesday night for their fifth straight victory.

McAvoy finished a pretty passing sequence for the

## McAvoy lifts Bruins past Blackhawks in OT

defenseman's first goal of the season. David Krejci threw the puck outside to a streaking Jake DeBrusk, who made a perfect pass to McAvoy for the tap-in on the right side of the net. The Blackhawks thought they had taken a 2-1 lead with 1:05 left in regulation when it looked as if Drake Caggiula beat Jaroslav Halak for a short-handed goal. But it was waved off by the referees after Bruins defenseman Torey Krug tripped Olli Maatta for a penalty.

Sean Kuraly also scored for Boston, which was coming off a 4-0 victory over Vancouver on Tuesday night.

Halak made 21 saves. Chicago wasted a terrific performance by Robin Lehner, who made 38 stops in his first start since Jan. 21. The Blackhawks also lost defenseman Adam Boqvist to a right shoulder injury in the second period. Alex DeBrincat had Chicago's only goal.

**RANGERS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 3**

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Kreider and Mika Zibanejad scored in a 6-second span late in the first period to lead New York past Toronto. Kreider and Zibanejad each had a goal and an assist, Pavel Buchnevich had a goal and two assists and Filip Chytil and Greg

McKegg also scored for the Rangers. Rookie goalie Igor Shesterkin made 27 saves to win for the fourth time in five 7starts this season. Auston Matthews had two goals and John Tavares also scored and added an assist for the Maple Leafs, who are in a tight race for a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Backup goalie Michael Hutchinson, who had won his previous four starts, had 30 saves for Toronto. Starter Frederik Andersen left Monday's loss to Florida with a neck injury. The Maple Leafs blew a 3-1 third-period lead and lost 5-3 to the Panthers. □





In this Nov. 10, 2019, file photo, Seattle Sounders captain Nicolas Lodeiro, right, lifts the MLS Cup trophy as he celebrates with teammates after the Sounders defeated Toronto FC in the MLS Cup championship soccer match in Seattle.

Associated Press

## MLS salaries, charter flights rise in new labor deal

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The minimum salary for senior players in Major League Soccer will rise from \$70,250 last year to \$109,200 in 2024 as part of a five-year collective bargaining agreement, and the use of charter flights will expand.

Free agent eligibility also will increase under the agreement announced Thursday, which is subject to ratification by both sides. "This agreement addresses key strategic priorities for the league and our players while also retaining the basic player compensation structure that has been the foundation for the growth and stability of Major League Soccer," Commissioner Don Garber said in a prepared statement. "We had constructive, positive discussions with the leadership of the MLSPA and the players' bargaining committee during the negotiations over the last few months and I would like to thank them for their collaboration in concluding an agreement that will serve as the foundation for a new era of partnership with our players."

Spending power per team will go up from \$8.49 million last year to \$11,643,000 in the final season of the deal. The agreement includes a provision in which players will share in increased media revenue in 2023 and

2024. Player spending will go up by an amount equal to 25% above the 2022 figure plus \$100 million.

Each team has 18-20 players on its senior roster, and their minimum rises to \$81,375 this year. Each team has up to eight players on its reserve roster, and their minimum goes up from \$56,250 last year to \$63,547 this season and \$85,502 in 2024.

Under the expired contract, each team had the right to use a charter flight on up to four legs per season. Under the new deal, teams must go by charter for eight legs this year and the figure will expand to 16 by 2024.

Teams also will have to use charters for all postseason games and all CONCACAF Champions League games involving international flights.

Players who are at least 24 and have five years of MLS service will be eligible for free agency, down from 28 and eight years of service. The deal caps the increases in contracts for free agents.

Designated players also will have some free-agent rights.

Starting next year, MLS has the right to allow each club to sign as many as three players 22 or younger with a reduced budget charge. □



Costa Rica defender Maria Coto (3) and United States forward Christen Press (20) both go for a header during the second half of a Concacaf women's Olympic qualifying soccer match Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, in Houston.

Associated Press

## U.S. guarding against letdown with Olympic berth on line

By ANNE M. PETERSON

**CARSON, Calif. (AP)** — The United States isn't really motivated by what happened four years ago in the Rio Games as the team heads into an all-important Olympic qualifying match Friday night.

Coming off a World Cup championship in France last summer, the United States just wants to guard against any letdown. Christen Press said it's difficult after all the attention that comes in the wake of winning soccer's premier tournament to transition so quickly to preparation for the Olympics.

"I think that the mentality the group that was a part of 2015 and 2016 is bringing into this transition is that we have to have a short memory," she said. "We have to let go of the World Cup and we have to go into this like this is our big tournament for the next three years. And so I think that that's a good lesson to have learned."

The United States had also won the World Cup in 2015 and went into the Rio Games brimming with confidence — only to be ousted in the quarterfinals by Sweden. It was the U.S. team's earliest ever exit from the Olympics.

On Friday, the top-ranked United States will play Mexico in the semifinals of the CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying tournament with one of the region's two berths in the Tokyo Games on the line. Canada faces Costa Rica for the other spot.

The U.S. and Canada won the Olympic berths four years ago. The Canadians went on to win their second consecutive bronze medal in Brazil.

Canada is led by captain Christine Sinclair, who surpassed retired U.S. star Abby Wambach's international goals record in the group stage. Sinclair, who has been on the national team since 2000, has 186 career goals heading into the semifinals. That's the most among men or women.

Canada coach Kenneth Heiner-Moller said it was important that his team avoids complacency during qualifying. And indeed, the team swept group stage play without conceding a goal.

"No matter who we play, we need to play to Canadian standard. It has to be our level of performance that we play to. It's so easy to play a team that you're better than, and then drop

to their level," he said.

By winning its group handily, eighth-ranked Canada avoided facing the United States in the semis. Costa Rica, ranked No. 37 in the world, has never made the 12-team field for the Olympics, although Las Ticas did play in the 2015 World Cup. The Canadians are undefeated in 13 previous meetings with Costa Rica. In the 2016 qualifying tournament, Canada defeated Las Ticas 3-1 in the semifinals.

"It was a close match. It was a match where we made many mistakes, but it is in the past," Costa Rica coach Amelia Valverde said. "We're focusing on right here, right now."

Mexico, ranked No. 26, made the field for the 2004 Olympics but has not been back since. However, Mexico is on the rise, boosted by a domestic women's league. The team won its first two group-stage matches before falling 2-0 to Canada.

Like Canada, the United States swept its group stage matches without allowing a goal. Lindsey Horan led the way with five goals and Press added four.

U.S. midfielder Rose Lavelle emphasized that the team can't get ahead of itself. □



Continued from page 17

Geoffrey Kamworor of Kenya wore a version of Vaporfly when he won the New York Marathon in November. All three of the men's marathon medalists at the 2016 Rio Olympics laced up a version of the shoe as well.

Vaporfly shoes have become a common sight at marathons all over, easily spotted with their neon green or pink hue.

Many marathoners are gladly paying the \$250 price tag on Nike's website — and sometimes more — even as they wonder how much credit they can personally take for improved results.

Bryan Lam, an amateur marathoner in Washington, D.C. said he spent \$400 for a pair of StockX ahead of the London Marathon last spring because the version he wanted was sold out elsewhere. He ran the marathon in 2:59.30, seven minutes faster than his previous personal best, a result he called "insane." It helped him achieve his lifelong goal of qualifying for the Boston Marathon this year. "I'd like to think that it was because of all of my training for the London Marathon but I do think the shoes had something to do with my performance," Lam said. "It's definitely not a level playing field when those who can afford the shoes have that type of advantage."

What differentiates the Vaporfly is a foam midsole that is lighter and less dense than others, allowing for extra cushioning without adding weight. The shoe also has a carbon-fiber plate that acts like a lever to reduce the work at the ankle. Independent and company-sponsored studies have found that the shoe gives runners a 4% edge in energy efficiency.

The Air Zoom Alphafly Next% steps it up a notch with two "air pods" in the sole for extra cushioning. Both the Vaporfly and the Alphafly meet a World Athletic rule that limits the sole thickness to no more than 40 millimeters. The Alphafly will be available for sale to Nike members starting Feb. 29, meaning it meets a new rule that shoes must



**In this Oct. 12, 2019 photo, marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge from Kenya, white vest, wearing Nike Alphafly prototype running shoe, and his first pacemaking team, wearing pink Nike Vaporfly shoes, leave the start line on Reichsbrücke during the INEOS 1:59 Challenge attempt to run a sub two-hour marathon in Vienna, Austria.**

Associated Press

be available on the open market by April 30 to be allowed at the Tokyo Games. Kyle Barnes, an exercise science assistant professor at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, conducted a study around two years ago that compared the Vaporfly shoes to Nike's Zoom Matumbo 3 (a track spike) and Adidas Adizero

with exercise physiology professor Andrew Kilding from Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand. "You're at a disadvantage not being in those shoes. ... Everything is happening so quick right now in the shoe industry." World Athletics sought a middle ground in its recent decision, making clear that

of more than 40-millimeters, or that contains more than one plate.

The Vaporfly controversy has drawn comparisons to the advantages that swimmers received wearing the Speedo LZR Racer, a full-body compression suit that trapped air for buoyancy and improved performance, leading to a slew of world records. Swimming's world governing body later banned all body-length swimwear.

But the minimal technology involved in running has evolved only gradually, said Burns. The last major changes, he said, came in the 1960s and '70s, when shoe manufacturers developed EVA-based foam midsoles and all-weather tracks began replacing cinder tracks.

Nike also is working on a fast shoe for the 100 meters. It's called the Nike Air Zoom Vaporfly and as of now will not be at the Olympics because its design does not meet the new World Athletics regulations. Nike is looking at ways to adjust the shoe so that it will comply with regulations, according to a person familiar with the discussion. The person spoke on condition of anonymity of the ongoing process since it's not public. Other companies are also pushing the boundaries of shoe technology. Saucony has a carbon-plated shoe called the En-

dorphan Pro, which marathoner Jared Ward wrote in a blog felt like the shoes were "pushing me forward into more of a half-marathon cadence."

Translation: It's fast.

Joyciline Jepkosgei won the women's marathon in New York wearing an Adidas Adizero Pro prototype, which the company said in a statement conforms with the new rules. Adidas did not release details about the shoe's technical design. Hoka One One recently came out with the Carbon X, which was described as a cushioned, carbon-plated "speed machine" for a "propulsive, responsive ride."

"We're all fans of the sport," said Colin Ingram, director of product for Hoka One One. "We're all for (technology advances) as long as we're able to do it within our own DNA when we decide to jump into the foray." For the moment, though, Nike appears to hold a sizable lead over any rival.

"I suspect they're three years behind, minimum, and so it'll take a long time before race results have any real integrity in a competitive sense," sports scientist Ross Tucker wrote in an email. "It turned athletes from 2:06 to 2:04. It decided results. It changed the relationship between physiological input and performance outputs."

Burns said a new era of advanced shoe technology could potentially disrupt the prevailing sponsorship model in running, in which shoe companies generally serve as the main sponsors of athletes. Burns said more athletes may look beyond shoe companies if a contract forces them to wear a shoe that puts them at a competitive disadvantage. "If you have guys bringing knives to a gunfight, it's not a good look for the knife sponsors," Burns said.

American distance runner Roberta Groner doesn't have a shoe deal and trains in a variety of brands, including a version of the Vaporfly. She could be wearing that model at the U.S. Olympic marathon trials in Atlanta later this month.

"I don't get into the science," Groner said. "I just go with how I feel." □



**In this Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 photo, Nike's Air Zoom Alphafly Next% running shoe is displayed at the Nike 2020 Forum in New York.**

Associated Press

Adios 3. His findings showed about 4.2% more efficiency by wearing the Vaporfly model.

Bottom line: Barnes estimated that slipping into the Vaporfly could potentially trim several minutes off a professional's time and in the vicinity of 10 minutes for, say, a 4-hour marathoner. "It is a form of technology doping," said Barnes, who co-authored the study

wearing the Vaporfly will not constitute cheating. But in tightening its rules, the Monaco-based organization signaled a new era of vigilance.

The governing body said an expert working group will be created to assess new shoes entering the market and placed a moratorium on certain criteria for shoes. It also banned any shoe with a sole thickness



# Goalie Katie Burt gets the win as the U.S. tops Canada 3-1

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)** — Hilary Knight and her U.S. teammates carried a decade-old grudge into Game 4 of their Rivalry Series with Canada, and settled an old score.

The Americans earned a 3-1 win over Canada and took a 3-1 lead in the five-game series.

Knight set up Hayley Scamurra for the winning goal in the third period and added an empty-netter to seal the victory, quieting the pro-Canada crowd at Rogers Arena.

Knight said that her mind was on her experience at the 2010 Winter Olympics, when Canada's women won gold the last time the two teams faced each other in Vancouver.

"Had some back and forth after the gold-medal loss with the fans up here," she said. "We were told to go back to our country and die, so I took it pretty personally."

"It's salt from 10 years ago, but obviously a celebration. There's a lot of passion and I think that's what brings out the best of both teams."

Dani Cameranesi also scored for the U.S. Jocelyne Larocque scored for Canada.

Goalie Katie Burt, making her first start for the U.S. national team in more than a year, recorded the win in net.

The teams were playing for the second time in three nights after Canada got its first win of the series, a 3-2 overtime victory on Mon-

day in Victoria. The U.S. opened the series with a 4-1 win in Hartford, Connecticut, and a 2-1 win in Moncton, New Brunswick, in December.

Troy Ryan, who took over as Canada's head coach in January, kept his lines the same on Wednesday after getting the win two days earlier in his first game behind the bench. Canada's only change came in net, where Emerance Maschmeyer took over for Ann-Renee Desbiens.

"It's a work in progress, right?" said Ryan. "We're trying to have a little bit of a shift to offense, and that takes some time."

"I still saw some good things out there tonight. They're trying to implement some things that we've been working on in practice. As we work on the details, I think the execution will follow."

U.S. coach Bob Corkum did some line juggling after Monday's loss, and his speedy new combination of Kendall Coyne Schofield, Brianna Decker and Cameranesi looked dangerous early.

The trio combined to open the scoring at 8:19 of the first period. After a shot attempt by Decker bounced off the end boards, Cameranesi bounced the puck off the back of the skate of Maschmeyer and into the net.

Three minutes and 21 seconds later, Canada evened the score. From behind the goal line, Melodie Daoust fed the puck to Jocelyne



**United States' Hilary Knight celebrates her goal against Canada during the third period of a Rivalry Series hockey game in Vancouver, British Columbia, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.**

Associated Press

Larocque, who beat Burt high to her blocker side.

The 22-year-old Burt made her first start for the U.S. since a 4-3 loss in a Rivalry Series game in Toronto in Feb. 2019. Nicole Hensley started in the loss in Victoria.

The teams remained deadlocked through the second period, trading power-play opportunities for much of the middle frame. After 40 minutes, Canada was 0 for 5 with the man advantage, while the U.S. was 0 for 3.

The Americans took a 2-1 lead with 12:07 left in the third when Scamurra beat Maschmeyer high to her stick side off a feed from Knight from behind the net. "It was a pass from behind

the net to the other post," said Maschmeyer. "Right out in front and a quick shot. It just caught me."

"I think it was a tough game. It's always easier to play in games when you get a ton of shots. I think at both ends, there weren't a lot of shots, kind of some quality chances."

"We need to move forward here."

Knight added her empty netter with 1:50 left.

"It's hard to put into words," said Larocque of the fan support the Canadian team has received during its two games in British Columbia. "It's amazing and I feel so proud to be from such an amazing country that supports us and loves

us, and we love them." Even with the series outcome decided in favor of the U.S., there should be no shortage of emotion for the final game of the series on Saturday in Anaheim.

Game 5 in Anaheim on Saturday, where the Canadians will have more work to do.

"I don't think we would ever go into a game against the U.S. and treat it like an exhibition game," said Ryan. "It's a rivalry and it's still part of the Rivalry Series."

"Our focus shifts from trying to win the Rivalry Series to trying to prepare for the World Championship, so I think the intensity and the mentality will still be there. It'll be a great game." □

## Atlanta college names building for baseball icon Hank Aaron

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Dozens of students dressed in blue excitedly welcomed Hank Aaron to their Atlanta college campus Wednesday as the school named a building for the baseball icon on his 86th birthday.

Atlanta Technical College renamed a building for the former Atlanta Braves slugger, christening it the Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron Academic Complex. Aaron,

a longtime supporter of the college, donates thousands of dollars to the school every year and his Chasing the Dream Foundation awards scholarships to several students.

As the legend arrived, there was cheering all around. Aaron looked calm and smiled as students, teachers and several big names from baseball honored him on his birthday. Even former

President Bill Clinton sent a video message.

"I don't feel like I'm 86, but I am 86," Aaron said.

Known as the "Home Run King," Aaron had 755 home runs over a career that spanned from 1954 to 1976 and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982. Now, he serves many roles with the Braves, where he spent most of his playing career. □



**Former Atlanta Braves slugger Hank Aaron, center, is surrounded by family and friends as Atlanta Technical College celebrates his 86th birthday, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 in Atlanta.**

Associated Press



# U.S. agency approves vehicle designed not to have human driver

By **TOM KRISHER**

**DETROIT (AP)** — For the first time, the U.S. government's highway safety agency has approved a company's request to deploy a self-driving vehicle that doesn't meet federal safety standards for human-driven cars and trucks.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration granted temporary approval for Silicon Valley robotics company Nuro to run a low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle, without side and rear-view mirrors and other safety provisions required of vehicles driven by humans. Also not on the safety feature list: windshield wipers, steering wheels or brake pedals.

The vehicles previously were subject to federal standards for low-speed vehicles that travel under 25 miles per hour. Those didn't need steering wheels or brake pedals and didn't have to have human back-up drivers.

Nuro vehicles can be monitored and controlled remotely by a human operator, if needed.

In December Nuro an-



This undated image provided by Nuro in February 2020 shows their self-driving vehicle "R2" carrying bags of groceries.

nounced plans to use its low-speed vehicles, called "R2," in partnership with Walmart to deliver groceries to customers in Houston. The service was to start early this year and use the vehicles as well as automated Toyota Prius hybrid cars. Nuro also was testing deliveries with Kroger in Arizona and Houston.

Under the temporary approval, Nuro will have to make real-time safety reports to the agency. Nuro also will have to hold regular meetings with the agency and reach out to the community in areas where the vehicles will travel.

"NHTSA is committed to working with industry and key stakeholders to cre-

ate space for innovation while prioritizing safety," the agency said in a prepared statement Thursday.

The agency will use enforcement powers if it finds any evidence of an unreasonable risk to safety, the statement said.

Nuro, of Mountain View, California, announced the R2 Thursday, the second

Associated Press

generation of a vehicle that's custom built to deliver goods, but not people. The company said it plans to deploy fewer than 100 vehicles this year, but has permission from NHTSA to eventually run as many as 2,500.

The delivery vehicles, equipped with laser, camera and radar sensors, will travel with regular traffic on public roads.

The exemption from motor vehicle standards from NHTSA also allows Nuro to run its rear cameras all the time. Current standards require the camera displays to turn off when the vehicle is moving forward so they don't distract human drivers, the company said.

Nuro said in a statement that the R2 has a front-end that protects pedestrians by collapsing inward. It's also equipped with temperature controls to keep perishable goods or meals fresh.

The vehicles make curbside deliveries to humans who can open the storage compartments with a code that's sent to them and unload the goods. □



This April 26, 2017, file photo shows the Twitter app icon on a mobile phone in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Twitter will begin to label and in some cases remove doctored or manipulated photos, audio and videos that are designed to mislead people.

The company said Tuesday that the new rules prohibit sharing synthetic or manipulated material that's likely to cause harm. Material

that is manipulated but isn't necessarily harmful may get a warning label. Under the new guidelines, the slowed-down video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in which she appeared to slur her words could get the label if someone tweets it out after the rules go into effect March 5. If it was proven that it also causes harm, Twitter could also remove it.

## Twitter to label altered media, remove if it may cause harm

But deciding what might cause harm could be difficult to define, and some material will likely fall into a gray area.

"This will be a challenge and we will make errors along the way — we appreciate the patience," Twitter said in a blog post. "However, we're committed to doing this right."

Twitter said it considers threats to the safety of a person or a group serious harm, along with risk of mass violence or widespread civil unrest. But harm could also mean threats to people's privacy or ability to freely express themselves, Twitter said. This could include stalking, voter suppression and intimidation epithets and "material that aims to silence someone."

Google, Facebook, Twitter and other technology services are under intense pressure to prevent interference in the 2020 U.S. elections after they were manipulated four years ago by Russia-connected actors. On Monday, Google's YouTube clarified its policy around political manipulation, reiterating that it bans election-related "deep-fake" videos. Facebook has also been ramping up its election security efforts.

As with many of Twitter's policies, including those banning hate speech or abuse, success will be measured by how well the company can enforce it. Even with rules in place, enforcement can be uneven and slow. This is likely to be especially true for misinfor-

mation, which can spread quickly on social media even with safeguards in place.

Facebook, for instance, has been using third-party fact-checkers to debunk false stories on its site for three years. While the efforts are paying off, the battle against misinformation is far from over.

Twitter said it was committed to seeking input from its users on such rules. Twitter said it posted a survey in six languages and received 6,500 responses from around the world. According to the company, the majority of respondents said misleading tweets should be labeled, though not everyone agreed on whether they should be removed or left up. □



# Should your student loans and your spouse's get hitched?

By RYAN LANE of NerdWallet

Multiple studies have shown that student debt can cause borrowers to delay getting married. For some borrowers, though, marriage could actually be a gateway to paying less. You can save money by refinancing student loans, but not everyone qualifies. If your better half has a better financial profile, you can share the benefits of refinancing in two ways:

— **REFINANCE TOGETHER.** You combine your student loans with your partner's into one spousal loan with a lower interest rate.

— **CO-SIGN FOR YOU.** Your spouse co-signs a loan refinancing your debt, getting you a lower rate on the back of his or her finances. If you're considering getting hitched to your partner's loans, here's how to decide if you should.

## REFINANCING 'FOR BETTER'

Refinancing makes the most sense to save money on higher-interest private and graduate school loans. For example, by refinancing a \$60,000 loan from 7% interest to 5%, you'd save roughly \$7,200 over a 10-year term.

Typically, you'll need robust finances and a good credit score to qualify and get the best rate.

Spouses may "increase (their) chances at getting a better rate together," says Andrew Zoeller, digital program director for Purefy, which refinances loans for Pentagon Federal Credit Union, or PenFed.

For joint spousal loans and loans that spouses co-sign, PenFed evaluates the couple based on their combined income and counts shared debts, like mortgages, only once. This allows more individuals — such as stay-at-home parents with good credit — to meet PenFed's lending criteria.

Other lenders may evaluate spouses separately. Ask a lender about its policy before applying.

In 2019, 67% of co-signed PenFed student loan refinances were spousal loans, according to Zoeller.

"It's something our program

is known for," he says.

## REFINANCING 'FOR WORSE'

If you co-sign a refinancing loan or combine debts with your spouse, you're equally responsible for repaying the balance — even after a divorce.

"There is no exit ramp," says Joshua R.I. Cohen, a lawyer in West Dover, Vermont, who operates TheStudentLoanLawyer.com.

For example, Cohen says a divorce decree could outline who's responsible for repayment, but both names remain legally on the debt. That means if one spouse doesn't pay, the other still suffers the consequences of missed payments, like damaged credit and collection calls.

Divorcees could refinance the loan or portions of it into their individual names to get around this, but only by meeting a lender's income and credit qualifications on their own.

## SHOULD YOU SAY 'I DO'?

Still have cold feet about refinancing with your spouse? These steps may help protect you:

### — TRY CO-SIGNING FIRST.

Co-signing may have a valuable option that spousal loans lack: programs that eventually remove your spouse from the loan. Co-signer release policies vary by lender; PenFed, for example, doesn't release spouse co-signers.

— **GET EXTRA LIFE INSURANCE.** Cover yourself if your partner dies and you

have to pay a hefty spousal loan on your own. You may owe the balance on a co-signed loan as well, depending on a lender's policies.

### — KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GIVING UP.

Once you refinance loans, you can't get your original loans back. If you want or need federal loan benefits, like alternate repayment plans and forgiveness programs, don't refinance them.

Cohen also says to make sure the savings are worth it. "I would rather pay 2% more in interest and know I'm not tied to this idiot for the rest of my life," he says.

### DON'T GET STUCK

Kathy Snell, 55, of Eugene, Oregon, would love to undo her spousal loan. But it has nothing to do with her marriage.

"We've managed even through all the financial stuff to stay happily married," Snell says.

That "stuff" includes a joint student loan that's grown to almost \$420,000.

Snell and her husband



In this April 3, 2019, file photo a tip box is filled with U.S. currency in New York.

Associated Press

combined their loans via a federal program that ended in 2006. Their loan isn't eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness, which forgives the federal loans of borrowers working for qualifying employers — like the University of Oregon, where Snell is an attending veterinarian.

Other federal borrowers can consolidate existing loans to eventually qualify for this program. □

Extend your stay at

All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms). Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets. Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 Large Supermarkets. Feel Free to contact or visit us. Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697  
Calls from USA & Canada: 1-888-415-1095 (toll free)  
Calls from The Netherlands: 085-009-0218 (toll free)  
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba  
Email: [info@arubaqualityapartments.com](mailto:info@arubaqualityapartments.com)  
Website: [www.arubaqualityapartments.com](http://www.arubaqualityapartments.com)

Have you ever wish you travel to Aruba with just a carry-on?

And leave all your belongings in a container being deliver and pick up right at your resort or home rental!

- As low as \$6.50 a month
- Pricing include pick-up&delivery
- Saves you time & money, year after year!
- Avoid extra luggages
- Affordable Storage Pricing
- Convenience & Peace of mind

For more information,  
Give us a call +297 568.4393  
or email us [locknrolltimesharestorage@gmail.com](mailto:locknrolltimesharestorage@gmail.com).  
[locknrollarubastorage-timeshare.simplesite.com](http://locknrollarubastorage-timeshare.simplesite.com)  
or visit our Facebook page!

## How to reach us!

Downtown

**Editor**  
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

**Assistant Director**  
Xiomara Arends

**Editor in Chief**  
Linda Reijnders  
([linda.reijnders@cspnv.com](mailto:linda.reijnders@cspnv.com))  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

**Editors**  
Richard Brooks

**Sales**  
Linda Reijnders  
([linda.reijnders@cspnv.com](mailto:linda.reijnders@cspnv.com))  
Sulaika Croes

**Classifieds**  
[classified@cspnv.com](mailto:classified@cspnv.com)

**Distribution and Collection**  
[accounting@bondia.com](mailto:accounting@bondia.com)

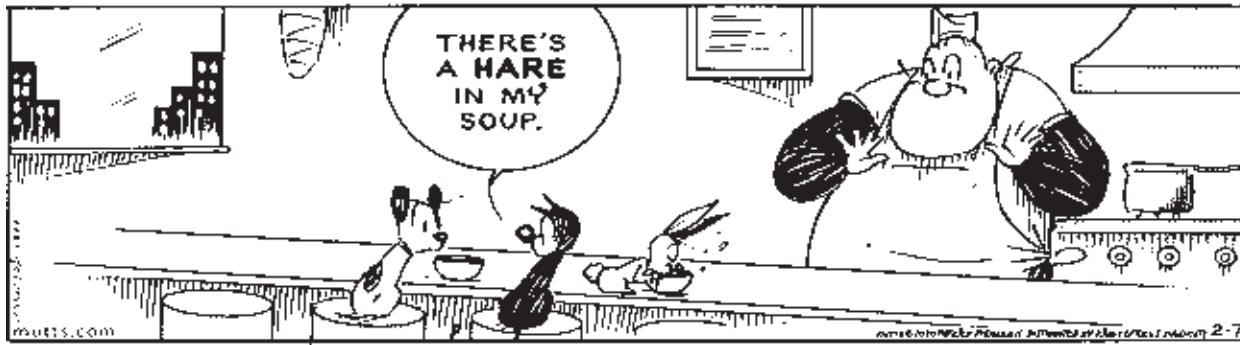
**Social / Website**  
Juan Luis Pinto  
Pilar Flores

**Columnists**  
Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Shanella Pantophlet  
Steve Francees  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com)  
W: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com)  
f @arubatoday



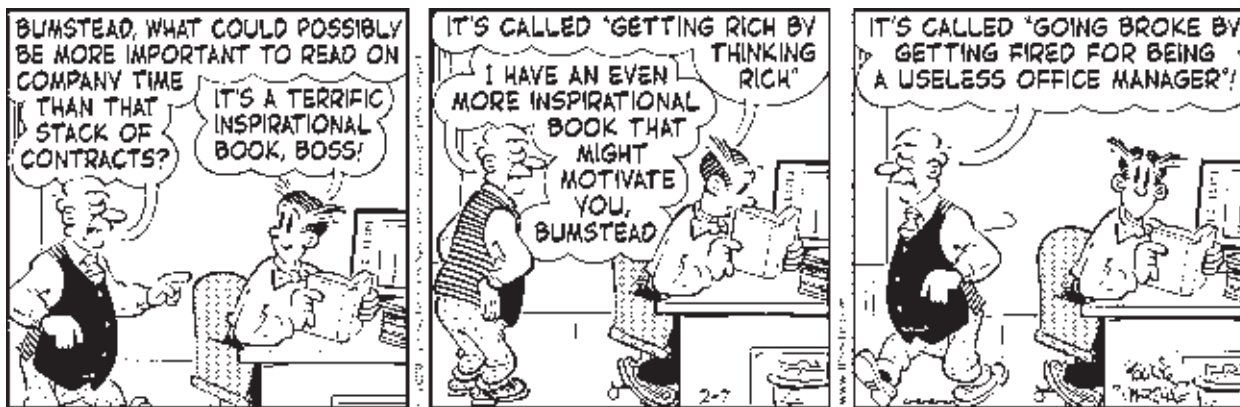
**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

8	1			9		7
		4		2		6
			3		9	
1	3				4	
		5	6			
					5	9
	8		7			
5			1		6	
2		6			4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

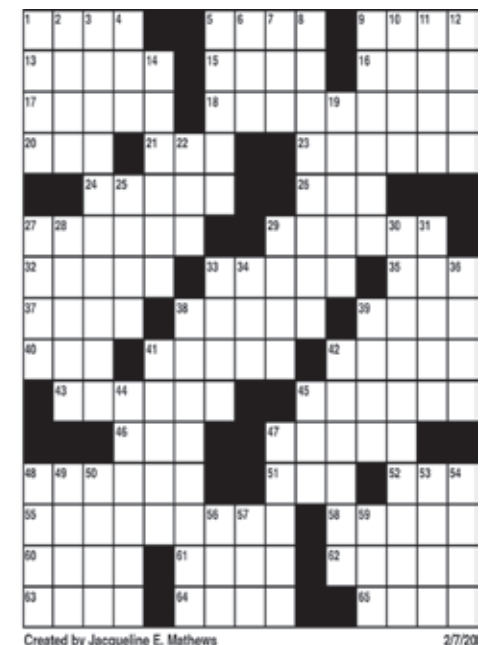
5	4	2	9	8	7	3	6	1
1	7	9	3	2	6	4	8	5
6	8	3	1	4	5	9	2	7
9	2	6	4	7	1	8	5	3
7	5	1	8	3	9	2	4	6
8	3	4	5	6	2	1	7	9
2	1	5	6	9	8	7	3	4
3	6	8	7	1	4	5	9	2
4	9	7	2	5	3	6	1	8

**ACROSS**

- 1 Here to ... permanent
- 5 Classic Pontiacs
- 9 Blueprint
- 13 No-no
- 15 Hilarious person
- 16 Freeway division
- 17 Love in Paris
- 18 Audacity
- 20 Sawyer of fiction
- 21 Fissure
- 23 Drinking spree
- 24 Furious
- 26 Flying mammal
- 27 Bulldog or boxer
- 29 Abnormal tissue growths
- 32 Last name for 2 U.S. presidents
- 33 "I've got ... that jingle, jangle, jingle..."
- 35 Skelton or Buttons
- 37 Teases
- 38 Disdain
- 39 Game of chance
- 40 Internet giggle
- 41 Square or triangle
- 42 Actor Willem
- 43 Nose cartilage
- 45 Man-; dangerous beasts
- 46 Tupperware top
- 47 More rational
- 48 -on; intermittent
- 51 Boat used for towing
- 52 Flow back
- 55 Persevering effort
- 58 Comedian Kovacs
- 60 Word of disgust
- 61 Trick
- 62 Hudson's namesakes
- 63 -; leaves shore
- 64 Make a tiny cut
- 65 Buzzers

**DOWN**

- 1 "Now!" in the ER
- 2 -shanter; Scottish cap
- 3 Revolting
- 4 TV's "Mad About ..."
- 5 Bellyache
- 6 Allen or Daly
- 7 "Alley ..."
- 8 Hardheaded
- 9 Good & ... licorice candy
- 10 Terra firma
- 11 Suffix for avoid or allow
- 12 -do-well
- 14 Heart & kidney
- 19 Passes out cards
- 22 Suffix for liquid or consul
- 25 Tire centers
- 27 Rob Reiner's dad
- 28 Foreign farewell
- 29 Untainted
- 30 First choice
- 31 Hombre's title
- 33 Ponzi scheme
- 34 "I Goes the Weasel"
- 36 Mothers of fawns
- 38 Trembles
- 39 Actress Mulgrew



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/7/20

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

BOA	RAWLS	SCAT
OAKS	ODIUM	HOLE
WHIP	DONNA	RISE
UNIVERSAL	UFOS	
NOON	LAB	
ASSETS	STETSONS	
PLATE	CHOSE	COP
AILS	WORST	SHOE
REV	CAKES	GEESE
TREMLED	SOARED	
ASK	DEAL	
ACED	APPALLING	
SODA	WAIVE	NOEL
ADAM	ANTIC	GALE
NAME	YEAST	HST

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC  
All Rights Reserved.

2/7/20

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 41 Beekeeping danger                         | 49 Blaze                  |
| 42 Peril                                     | 50 Driver's woe           |
| 44 Makes braids                              | 53 Two-wheeler            |
| 45 -de cologne                               | 54 Nickname for Elizabeth |
| 47 Difficult to climb                        | 56 Convent resident       |
| 48 Beat the ... succeed when not expected to | 57 Series for Jorja Fox   |
|  | 59 Rip off                |



# Classifieds

**Aruba Beach Resort wk 5+6**  
3 Br sleeps 8 1st floor south tower deeded full amenities + washer,dryer 2 full bath 35k commodoremtrs@icloud.com

212427

**EAGLE ARUBA RESORT**  
1 bedroom wk 3  
\$6000  
Phone USA (+1) 978-256-5580

212443



## Marriott Aruba Surf Club

**PLATINUM Season**  
2B Oceanfront \$26k  
Oceanside \$16,500  
Oceanview \$15,500  
3BEDRM \$28k  
\*WK. 51 OV \$39k  
\*WK. 52 OV \$49k  
\* Weeks 7 and 14-all views  
**GOLD Season**  
2B Oceanfront \$14k  
2B Oceanside \$8k  
GV \$5k OV \$7k  
3BEDRM \$13k

## Marriott Aruba Ocean

**PLATINUM Season**  
2 Bed OV \$16500 **Club**  
2B OF \$26k  
1B OV \$9k  
\*\* Destination points \$8 per point  
**GOLD Season**  
2B Oceanfront \$14k  
2B OV \$9k  
1 Bed \$4k  
1B OF \$9k

**La Cabana Beach Resort**  
2Bd-Weeks 30-33 Unit 322BC and Unit 412BC \$6500 e.week

**Divi Aruba Phoenix**  
Week 27 and week 29  
Penthouse 2Bed 3 Bath  
Other week also available

## We Need Sellers!!!

Costa Linda & Playa Linda  
& All Divi Weeks

**We are the #1  
RESALE  
agent in Aruba!**

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

**Contact:**  
**julie@conciergerealty.com**

**888-888-2204 Ext 111**

**Website:**  
**www.conciergerealty.com**

**Broker: Michelle Donato**

www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/  
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean/

**PARADISE BEACH VILLA**  
**2 BR Week 5 RM 102**  
garden view contact RM 102  
wk 2 thru 5 \$12.5k  
Phone USA 1-508 883 9170  
E-mail: linrog75@verizon.net

212297

**Casa del Mar 2BR/2B**  
Week 1/Unit 1408 (15k);  
Week 2/1113 (\$16k);  
Weeks 5&6/1315 (\$18k/Wk.);  
5&6/1521 (\$20k/Wk.);  
Week 7/1308; 7&8/1408 (\$18k/Wk.);  
Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (\$17k/Wk.);  
Weeks 9-15 also available!  
CDMOwner@gmail.com  
U.S. (860)992-3890

212287

**Sister Linda**  
helps in all walks of life, specializing in love & life. Removes badluck and evil eye, reunite love & stop third party interference.  
Call today. 001-713-349-9117  
Call for Free Questions!!

212410

## EAGLE ARUBA RESORT

week 1,2,3,4+5,6  
1 BR 1st floor \$6500

## Paradise Beach

week 50 Studio \$4000 each  
2 BR wk 51-52 \$15000 each  
Home 1518 537 6406  
Cel. 1518 965 7878  
After February 15, 2020  
desankabubnjvic3@gmail.com

212406

## FOR SALE BY OWNER

**Divi Village Golf**  
Bldg. E 1 BR 2 Bath, 2 patios deck, hot tab. grill. Floating week (wk 51-wk15) 19 weeks remaining \$9000  
janellemickelson@gmail.com

212439

## Aruba Divi Phoenix

3 BR Penhouse 671  
2 story 2 balcony  
Weeks 3 and 4  
34 Weeks remaining starting 2021  
\$55k each week  
Claudio 561-247-6896

212405

## DIVI GOLF RESORT

weeks 11&12 new appliances totally renovated ground floor Eagle, parking, view golf course, river, 2 terraces, \$39,500 US. Please contact (Canada) +514-737-2428/514-781-3011 or e-mail: wapoos-bigfish@sympatico.ca

212447

## Halley Time Travel

### For Rent

**Marriott Ocean Club**  
Price : \$2800 each  
1 BR Ocean View Platinum  
Date : 03/22 to 03/29/2020  
Date : 03/20 to 03/27/2020  
Date : 02/21 to 02/27/2020  
Date : 01/17 to 02/22/2021

**Marriott Surf Club**  
2 BR Ocean Side Platinum  
Date : 03/6 to 03/13/2020  
\$4 K  
**Divi Links Golf \$1,5 K**  
Carnival week sleep 4  
Date :02/15 to 02/22/ 2020

**Marriott Ocean Club**  
Platinum  
1 BR Ocean View \$10 K  
1 BR Ocean Front \$20 K  
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K  
2 BR Ocean View \$26 K

**Marriott Surf Club**  
Platinum  
2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K  
2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K  
3 BR Ocean View \$26 K

## Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK 8  
Building 6 on the 4th floor  
27 weeks remain \$15 K  
1 BR WK 11  
building 7 on the 3rd floor  
33 weeks remain \$15 K

## Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR Week # 8/9  
Penthouse 14th floor  
with 32/22 weeks remain  
\$20 K both weeks

## Divi Village \$ 7 K

1 BR WK # 14  
ground floor building C  
16 weeks remain

## Renaissance Suites

1 BR WK # 9 \$ 9 K  
4th floor harbor view  
**Divi Village**  
2 BR Wk 13 \$13K  
3 rd floor building  
27 weeks remain

**Divi Links Golf**  
1 BR Wk 6 \$8K Birdie 1  
19 weeks remain  
Studio wk 7/8  
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K each  
27/29 weeks remain

**Divi Links Golf**  
1 BR WK 8/9  
Eagle 9 \$9,5K each  
with 27/19 weeks remain

**Divi Links Golf**  
1 BR WK #11  
Birdie 3 \$9 K  
26 weeks remain  
1 BR wk 12/13  
ground Floor  
With 33/34 weeks remain  
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each

**Divi Village**  
Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K  
Building F  
21 weeks remain  
2 sd Floor 18 weeks remain  
**Dutch Village**  
1 BR WK 7/8 \$9 K each  
15 weeks remain each  
2 BR WK 7 \$18 K  
25 weeks remain

## Dutch Village

1 BR WK 9  
16 weeks remain  
1 BR WK 8 \$8 K  
12 weeks remain  
1 BR WK 7/8 \$7 K  
12/24 weeks remain

## Eagle Resorts

1 BR WK 5,6,7,8  
Ground Floor \$6,5 K each  
1 BR wk 7/8/9 \$6,5 K each  
**Caribbean Palm Village**  
1 BR wk 3/4 \$6 K  
2 BR WK 5/6 \$ 7 K each  
**Le Vent Condo**  
3 BR , 2 Bath \$650 K

**Renaissance Suites**  
1 BR WK # 10/11  
Garden View 5 th floor  
\$6,5 K each  
1 BR WK 7 \$ 9 K  
rd floor garden view

**Call: 630 1307**  
**Johnnypaesch@gmail.com**  
**www.buyarubatimeshares.com**  
**www.bestbuyrealtiaruba.com**

**ST P**  
Violence Against Women



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

**IMSAN 24 Hours**  
Tel.524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:  
Eagle Tel. 587 9011  
San Nicolas:  
Aloe Tel. 584 4606

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### CRUISES



**February 7**  
Norwegian Joy  
**February 8**  
Norwegian Gem/ AIDAPerla  
Eurodam

### AID FOUNDATIONS

**FAVI- Visually Impaired**  
Tel. 582 5051

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Tel. 736 2952

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
Tel. 583 8989

**Women in Difficulties**  
Tel. 583 5400

**Centre for Diabetes**  
Tel. 524 8888

**Child Abuse Prevention**  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118





In a Nov. 30, 2016 file photo, pharmacist Mary Chindanyika looks at documents on a fridge containing a trial vaccine against HIV on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa.

Associated Press

## Study is halted as HIV vaccine fails test in South Africa

By The Associated Press

The latest attempt at an HIV vaccine has failed, as researchers announced Monday they have stopped giving the experimental shots in a major study.

The study had enrolled more than 5,400 people since 2016 in South Africa, a country with one of the world's highest HIV rates. Last month, monitors checked how the study was going and found 129 HIV infections had occurred among the vaccine recipients compared with 123 among those given a dummy shot, according to the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

"An HIV vaccine is essential to end the global pandemic and we hoped this vaccine candidate would

work. Regrettably, it does not," said NIH infectious diseases chief Dr. Anthony Fauci.

There were no safety concerns, but NIH, which sponsored the study, agreed that vaccinations should stop.

The experimental shot was based on the only vaccine ever shown to offer even modest protection against HIV, one that was deemed 31% effective in Thailand. That wasn't good enough for real-world use but gave scientists a starting point. They beefed up the shot and adapted it to the HIV subtype that's common in southern Africa.

Two other large studies, in several countries, are under way testing a different approach to a possible HIV vaccine. □



In this Feb. 3, 2020, file photo, a security officer wearing a face mask stands on a subway train in Beijing.

Associated Press

## Experts prepare but new China virus not a pandemic yet

By CARLA K. JOHNSON  
AP Medical Writer

Health authorities are preparing for a possible pandemic as they work to contain a respiratory illness in China that's caused by a new virus. Governments are limiting travel, isolating sick people and keeping travelers returning from the affected region under quarantine to watch for symptoms.

In the United States, the scope and cost of the government response is increasing. U.S. health officials already have tapped into a \$105 million rapid response fund and notified Congress that they may need \$136 million more.

Here's what you should know about the illness:

### IS IT A PANDEMIC?

Not yet. The virus is an epidemic in China, where more than 17,000 cases have been reported, but has not affected enough people around the globe to be considered a pandemic. So far, other countries have reported only a few dozen cases, most involving travelers returning from China and their close contacts.

And while there have been more than 360 deaths, all but one has been in China. Based on the way the virus

spread in China, investigators believe each infection has led to an average of 2.2 others getting sick. That's a bit more than ordinary flu but less than SARS, severe acute respiratory syndrome, a genetic cousin of the new virus.

Governments are preparing for a possible pandemic and taking actions to prevent one.

The World Health Organization designates a pandemic when there are outbreaks on at least two continents. So far, WHO has called this a "public health emergency of international concern."

The 2009 H1N1 influenza virus reached pandemic level. Now, H1N1 is a regular flu virus that circulates around the globe seasonally.

### WHAT IS THE NEW VIRUS?

Scientists have identified it as a new coronavirus. The name comes from the Latin word for crowns or halos, which coronaviruses resemble under a microscope. The coronavirus family has many types that affect people. Some cause the common cold while others originating in bats, camels and other animals have evolved into more severe illnesses such as SARS or MERS, Middle East respi-

ratory syndrome.

### WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

The first cases appeared in December in Wuhan, a city in central China's Hubei province. Many of the first people infected had visited or worked at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, which has since been closed for an investigation. Chinese health officials say they believe the illness first spread from animals to people. They now say it can spread between people.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Common symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In serious cases, the virus can cause pneumonia. Some patients have needed oxygen. Others have had only mild illness.

It's too early to say whether the new virus will fade out as cold and flu viruses do when winter ends. If it does, a second wave of illness could start up in the fall. By then, there may be a vaccine to slow it down.

### HOW IS IT TREATED?

The World Health Organization has said there is not a specific medicine recommended to treat the illness, although some will be tested. For now, doctors are treating symptoms with anti-fever drugs. □

LIKE US ON  
**facebook**  
Facebook.com/arubatoday/

**Honey Dolls**  
MESSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE  
**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
Pick-up & Delivery  
Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders  
**+297 565-9535**  
WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM



## Key is still making people laugh but flexing his drama chops

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Keegan-Michael Key is transitioning out of over-the-top comedies to focus more on dramatic films, and for him, it's no laughing matter.

"We've been moving in a little bit of a new direction, where it's a Keegan with a little more gravitas and a Keegan that still does humor, but it's not as slap-sticky or goofy," said the former "Key & Peele" star. "Keegan that's trying to have a career that's a bit more nuanced or maybe a little more dangerous or a little more scary. So I can flex those old muscles."

His acting physique was first worked out at the University of Detroit Mercy, where he earned a bachelor's in 1993 followed by a master's at the University of Pennsylvania State in 1996. He describes his comedic career as a detour from his original path, but now he's back on the road again.

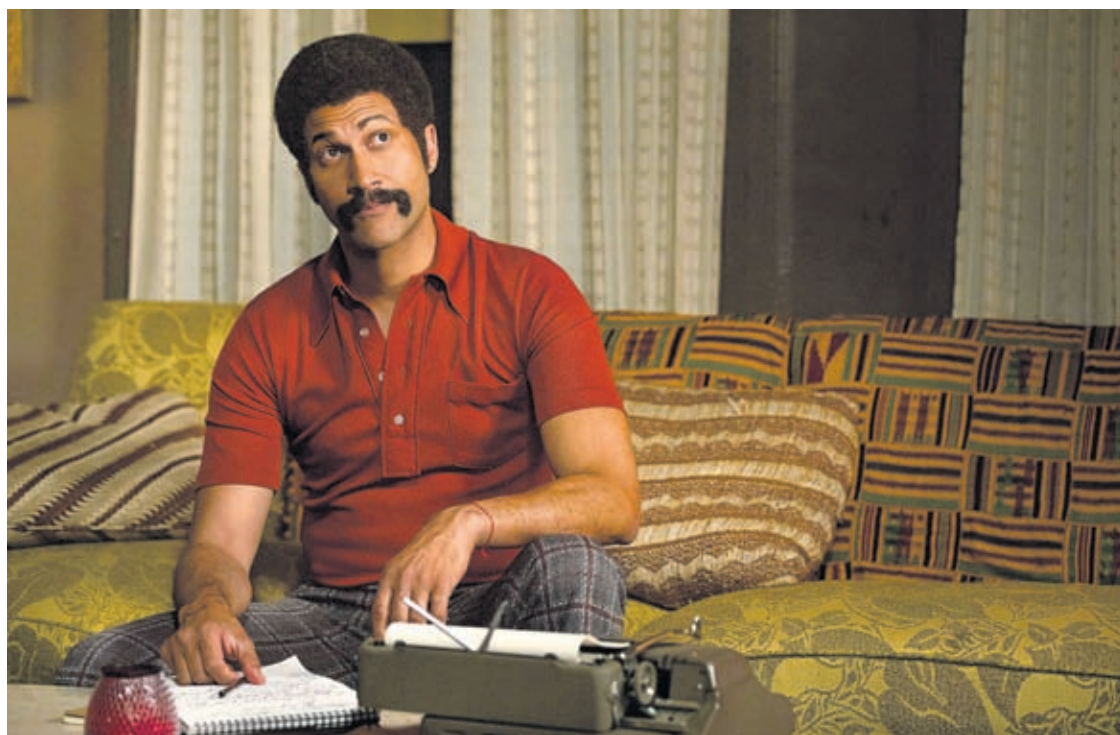
"I had a little bit of anxiety when I did a production of Hamlet with Oscar Isaac off Broadway a couple of years ago here (in New York City). And there was a little bit of trepidation to begin with. And then it was like riding a bike — it was like being back in drama school," said the Emmy winner. "So it's full steam ahead in this new direction."

During the past few years, he's worked himself back

into drama shape, culminating in a huge 2019: he starred in the hit Netflix series "Friends from College," provided extensive voice-over work for huge animated and live action films such as "Toy Story 4" (playing Ducky alongside his "Key & Peele" partner, Jordan Peele, as Bunny) and "The Lion King" (as Kamari the hyena). But his stand-out moment was for his role as Jerry in 2019's acclaimed "Dolemite in my Name" starring Eddie Murphy.

"Getting to work with Eddie Murphy has been one of the greatest one experiences of my career, because it's very surreal to have an opportunity to work with a hero — to work with a person who got you into the business. And what you do is you find yourself on set going like, 'OK, is today the day that I'm going to tell Eddie that he changed my life?'" he said with a smile. "What do you tell a person other than you inspired me to do what I do? You could just as easily say you inspired me to be here today with you. My career took this path, and now I'm here with you."

Although Key is focused more on serious roles, he's still making folks laugh on NatGeo's rebooted "Brain Games," which airs Mondays at 9 p.m. Eastern. It's a fun show that explores how the human brain processes and interprets infor-



This image released by Netflix shows Keegan-Michael Key in a scene from "Dolemite Is My Name." Key is transitioning out of over-the-top comedies to focus more on dramatic films.

Associated Press

mation through challenges and games in front of a live audience. Celebrity guests such as Tiffany Haddish and married couple Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard join him throughout the season, along with cameos from stars such as his former TV partner Peele and legend Tom Hanks.

"I am a self-proclaimed blerd," as in black nerd, says Key. "I am one of those guys who sits around and reads books on neurobiology, something that I just find fascinating. I am legitimately fascinated by how the brain works and why we do the things we do, and also things that we do

that we don't know we're doing on a subconscious level — fascinating to me, and I can't get enough of it."

But he cautions viewers not to worry — although they'll be learning, they'll definitely be laughing as well.

"It's another one of these things where it's like the eternal task of trying to make science fun—we did it. We did it on Brain Games," he laughed. "Entertained is one thing (but) I also want to make sure that people understand that they'll be fascinated. And I think that's an aspect of entertainment and being entertained."

In the meantime, as Key forges ahead to pursue more dramatic roles, he's refusing to limit himself.

"Let's do action. I want to be the next Jason Bourne. I'll be a villain in a Bond movie — I'd be more than happy to. And as I'm getting to explore other parts of my life and do new things, I'm ready for it. I'm ready for the challenge," said an excited Key. "I just finished making a musical — I sing and dance in a musical. So why not this? Why not an action movie or three action movies or 10 action movies or a franchise? You know, got to dream big. Gotta dream big." □

## King angry at CBS promo of interview questions about Bryant

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In the wake of a social media backlash, CBS' Gayle King says she is embarrassed and angry with how the network promoted part of her interview with WNBA star Lisa Leslie that concerned the late Kobe Bryant.

A video clip distributed online and on CBS News' social media accounts, taken from a wide-ranging "CBS This Morning" interview that aired Tuesday, focused on Leslie addressing a sexual

assault charge that had been brought against Bryant and dismissed. Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26.

On Thursday, King posted a video in response on Twitter.

"I know that if I had only seen the clip that you saw, I'd be extremely angry with me, too," King said. "I am mortified, I am embarrassed and I'm very angry." CBS, in a statement Thursday, noted that King's interview was thoughtful and

wide-ranging.

"An excerpt was posted that did not reflect the nature and tone of the full interview," the network said. "We are addressing the internal process that led to this and changes have already been made."

In the interview, King asked Leslie whether Bryant's legacy had been complicated by the assault case. Leslie said it hasn't, and called on the media to be more respectful of Bryant's memory.



This July 16, 2016 file photo shows "CBS This Morning" host Gayle King speaking at the 2016 Art For Life Benefit in Water Mill, N.Y.

Associated Press

It was the clip that appeared to launch the backlash. The response included a profane video

posted on Twitter by rapper Snoop Dogg telling King to back off, "before we come get you." □





Greta Gerwig, left, and Laura Dern attend the 92nd Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon at the Loews Hotel on Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

# Women vying for Oscars salute their progress, snubs aside

By LYNN ELBER

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— The mood at Diane von Furstenberg's lunch honoring this year's female Oscar contenders could have been downbeat, given the shutout of women directors for Sunday's awards. Instead, it was celebratory and defiant.

The 30-plus nominees who gathered at von Furstenberg's home, tucked into elegant and secluded grounds, cheered as the women spoke in turn. Laura Dern, a best supporting actress nominee for "Marriage Story," kicked things off Wednesday by recalling von Furstenberg's first nominees' lunch six years ago. A single couch was enough to hold the handful of women, Dern told the packed room, adding, "I look forward to that entire garden to be filled in a few years!"

Von Furstenberg and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences CEO Dawn Hudson said a record 67 nominations went to women this year, which Hudson called representative of a trend in the academy that has long tilted heavily male. Half the newly invited members are women, she said, and the leadership is changing as well.

"When I started with the academy nine years ago there were six female governors, and it was hard for our voices to be heard around the big table," Hudson said. "And today there are 25."

Greta Gerwig, excluded from the best director category for "Little Women" despite its best-picture bid, was on hand briefly before dashing out, it was explained, to get back home to her baby.

"That's OK. As long as she gets the Oscar," a guest called out. Gerwig is a nominee for best adapted screenplay.

Former studio chief Amy Pascal, who produced "Little Women," offered an industry veteran's perspec-

tive.

"On behalf of Greta and myself, yeah, it would have been better if she got nominated. But 'Little Women' is the third movie in the history of the Oscars that is produced, directed and written" by women, Pascal said, drawing applause.

That's good, she said, "but more is better."

Krysty Wilson-Cairns, who earned a best original screenplay nod for "1917," said the film has been her passport to many parties and some telling moments. "Every time I say I'm the writer of '1917,' people go, 'huh?' and those people are unfailingly male. And today, not one single person in this room has gone, 'huh?'" she said. "So I just want to say thank you for that."

Karen Rupert Toliver, a producer of the nominated animated short "Hair Love," marveled at being in the room with her industry "heroes." Toliver was among the few nominees of color attending the lunch in a year that produced only one nod for a non-white actor, Cynthia Erivo in "Harriet."

Women are making impressive strides in documentaries and animation, as was emphasized by the nearly 20 guests with nods in those categories.

Julia Reichert, who earned her fourth and latest nomination for the documentary "American Factory," summoned memories from her early career. One was hearing that a woman can control the family's shopping budget "but you don't want to give her \$5 million to make a movie."

"This is an actual quote from a producer guy back then. And how do we get from there to where we are?" Reichert said, suggesting two reasons.

"We're not accepting patriarchy, not accepting the way the males have done it. We have our own way and we're going to make our own way. The other thing is solidarity, solidarity

among women," Reichert said, drawing shouts of "Yes!" from other guests.

Some reinforced the value of sisterhood with their own stories. Kirstine Barfod, who with Sigrid Dyekjaer produced the nominated documentary "The Cave," about a heroic doctor and her staff in war-torn Syria, said it was Dyekjaer's faith in her abilities that helped make her career possible. Work, not awards, should be the main goal, Dern said in an interview at the lunch.

"We need to take the focus off of the lack of accolades for women and look at the lack of opportunities. You can't say five movies were made by women, and they got snubbed. Well, OK, but of the 300 guys who got to make them, there were a bunch of guys who got snubbed," Dern said. "We need to change the numbers."

Anita Hill, head of a commission scrutinizing sexual abuse and harassment in the entertainment and media sectors, said hearing women of proven value say they are not getting treated fairly "has inspired me to do my work even harder."

Many guests tipped their hat to von Furstenberg, with Pascal calling the fashion magnate a woman who "takes charge every day and doesn't take 'no' for an answer and built her own empire."

Hudson saluted her for her dedication to the long-planned academy museum that is slated to open this year.

Actress Tessa Thompson, a lunch co-host, said the facility will "do justice to the stories of women in film," a promise echoed by the museum's new head, Bill Kramer.

"We pledge to be inclusive. We pledge to tell complete, complicated stories. And we're doing it with your help," he said. The museum's opening date will be announced soon, Kramer said. □

PH VIP At Paseo Herencia 582-3693

PBP Palm Beach Plaza Mall 586.0074

caribbeancinemas.com

Caribbean Cinemas Aruba

MORE VARIETY IN PROGRAMMING AND SHOWTIMES NOW WITH 14 SCREENS!

**FEBRUARY 6-12**

MARGOT ROBBIE | MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD

**BIRDS OF PREY**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-FRI 6:00   7:00   8:30
SAT	2:00   3:30   4:30   6:00   7:00   8:30   11:00
SUN	2:00   3:30   4:30   6:00   7:00   8:30
PBP	MON-THU 5:05   7:30
FRI	5:05   7:30   10:00
SAT	2:40   5:05   7:30   10:00
SUN	2:40   5:05   7:30

CXC

MON-THU	5:45   8:10
FRI	5:45   8:10   10:35
SAT	12:55   3:20   5:45   8:10   10:35
SUN	12:55   3:20   5:45   8:10

PBP

MON-FRI	4:35   7:00   9:25
SAT-SUN	2:10   4:35   7:00   9:25

SOPHIA LILLIS | ALICE KRIGE

**Gretel & Hansel**

PH	MON-THU 6:30   8:40
FRI	6:30   8:40   10:50
SAT	2:10   4:20   6:30   8:40   10:50
SUN	2:10   4:20   6:30   8:40

PBP

MON-THU	5:25   7:30   9:35
FRI	5:25   7:30   9:35   11:40
SAT	1:15   3:20   5:25   7:30   9:35   11:40
SUN	1:15   3:20   5:25   7:30   9:35

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

**BAD BOYS FOR LIFE**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 7:40   8:35
FRI	7:40   8:35   10:20
SAT	2:10   4:55   7:40   8:35   10:20
SUN	2:10   4:55   7:40   8:35

PBP

MON-THU	5:10   7:30
FRI	5:10   7:30   10:00
SAT	2:50   5:10   7:30   10:00
SUN	2:50   5:10   7:30

PBP

MON-FRI	4:00   6:40   9:20
SAT-SUN	1:20   4:00   6:40   9:20

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | ANTONIO BANDERAS

**DOLITTLE**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-FRI 6:15
SAT-SUN	3:55   6:15
MON-THU	4:20   6:40   9:00
FRI	4:20   6:40   9:00   11:20
SAT	2:00   4:20   6:40   9:00   11:20
SUN	2:00   4:20   6:40   9:00

MACKENZIE DAVIS | FINN WOLFHARD

**THE TURNING**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 6:15   8:30
FRI	6:15   8:30   10:15
SAT	1:50   4:00   6:15   8:30   10:15
SUN	1:50   4:00   6:15   8:30

DWAYNE JOHNSON | JACK BLACK

**JUMANJI THE NEXT LEVEL**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 3:50   6:30   9:10
FRI	3:50   6:30   9:10   11:45
SAT	1:10   3:50   6:30   9:10   11:45
SUN	1:10   3:50   6:30   9:10

OPENING FEBRUARY 13:  
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, THE PHOTOGRAPH, BLUMHOUSE FANTASY ISLAND,  
OPENING FEBRUARY 14: LOVE AAJ KAL 2

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play





This cover image released by Rhino Records shows "Perdida" by the Stone Temple Pilots.

Associated Press

## Review: Stone Temple Pilots unplug for terrific 'Perdida'

By MARK KENNEDY  
AP Entertainment Writer

What a strange trip it's been for fans of Stone Temple Pilots. Two decades ago, they gave us the grunge masterpiece "Plush." Now they are offering folk songs with flute solos.

That's not a knock, just a gentle warning. Bands evolve and the Pilots have moved so beyond their sonic beginnings that they've followed their muse into a completely different genre. They deserve credit — and listeners. "Perdida" finds the band in an acoustic frame of mind. No, they're

not making stripped-down covers of their hits (they've done that), but 10 brand new songs using no or very little juice. There are cellos, violins, alto sax and something called a Marxophone, a fretless zither. Acoustic songs are more delicate than electricity-fueled ones and there's more pressure on singer Jeff Gutt, who has taken over from original frontman Scott Weiland. But these 10 songs show off the musicianship of the band and its member's versatility, sounding organically acoustic, not reverse-engineered. □



President Donald Trump pauses as he speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020.

Associated Press

## Broadcasters stick with Trump during acquittal victory talk

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After President Donald Trump spoke live for more than an hour Thursday about his impeachment acquittal, one television network anchor apologized to viewers for a presidential obscenity, while another said it was like watching someone on a therapist's couch. Yet there's no indication that anyone in the control rooms at ABC, CBS and NBC considered pulling the plug on him.

During his time at a White House podium, Trump denounced his political opponents with vulgarities,

individually thanked supporters in the audience — including suggesting GOP Rep. Steve Scalise has gotten better looking since being shot — and apologized to no one except his family, for having to endure his impeachment.

There was little question that a president's first speech after a Senate trial and acquittal was newsworthy enough for broadcasters to break into regular programming.

Yet it wasn't a prepared address, and as it went on complaints grew on social media from viewers who had seen enough.

Network executives

wouldn't speak publicly about whether pulling away from Trump was a consideration. But in at least two network newsrooms, there was a strong thought that out of fairness, the president deserved the chance to be heard after several weeks where the impeachment hearings and trial were broadcast, said people familiar with the decisions who did not want to be identified while discussing confidential conversations.

A former NBC News executive said Thursday's broadcasts illustrated the unique difficulties of dealing with Trump. □

## Rolling Stones returning to North America for 15-city tour

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Rolling Stones are returning to some North American cities where they haven't played in years. The band announced Thursday that it will kick off a 15-city leg of its No Filter tour in San Diego on May 8. Other cities where the band will play that it hasn't performed in recently include Cleveland; St. Louis; Austin, Texas; Louisville, Kentucky; Charlotte, North

Carolina; Tampa, Florida; and Vancouver, British Columbia.

The band will also perform in Minneapolis; Dallas; Detroit; Pittsburgh; Nashville, Tennessee; and Buffalo, New York. The shows will end July 9 with a concert in Atlanta.

Tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. local time on Feb. 14. Additional details have been posted at the band's website, rollingstones.com.

The Stones' tour through North America last year was postponed after Mick Jagger had heart surgery, but the band rescheduled those dates and returned triumphantly to the road with a show in Chicago. Another of the rescheduled shows featured the announcement that NASA had named a tiny tumbling stone spotted on the Martian surface after the band. □



This Aug. 22, 2019 file photo shows, from left, Ron Wood, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones performing in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press



# War-weary Afghan youth turn to snowboarding for thrills

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — Aspen! Zermatt! Kabul? While Afghanistan's capital may seem an unlikely destination for snowboarders, a group of young Afghans is looking to put the city on the winter sports map and change perceptions about their war-weary nation. Kabul is better known for its hulking concrete blast walls and tense security checkpoints. But it also sits in a valley in the Hindu Kush mountains at an elevation of around 1,800 meters (5,900 feet). The rugged terrain has inspired young Afghans to take to the surrounding mountains in search of fun. Ahmad Romal Hayat, 22, who founded the Afghanistan Snowboarding Federation, said that even a country plagued by war and sectarian conflict can have room for sports. "We started doing it (snowboarding) to show this new face to the world," said Hayat.



In this Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 photo, Ahmad Soroush, 22, left, and Nizaruddin Alizada, 20, make a jump on the snow-covered hillside known as Kohe Koregh, on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan. Associated Press

ful of federation members hit the slopes outside Kabul each weekend, usually with around a dozen male and female students and plenty of spectators. They

in the 1990s. Now, it's a place for laughing kids who sled on plastic bags, while Hayat's team members work on improving their snowboarding skills

path to becoming a snowboarding instructor. He fled Afghanistan in 2016 to escape the almost two-decade-old war between the U.S. and Taliban militants. He ended up seeking asylum in Germany where he fell in love with snowboarding. In 2018, he returned to Afghanistan, saying he did so without awaiting a final decision on his asylum case. Now he is worried about the future. "If the Taliban come back, it'll be impossible to keep snowboarding, because the Taliban are not sports-friendly people. They want neither peace nor sports," he said. A few sports, like soccer and wrestling, were allowed during the Taliban's harsh religious rule from 1996 to 2001. Fighting between the Taliban on one side and the United States and its Afghan government allies on the other has continued to rage, even as the U.S. works to hammer out a peace agreement with the insurgent group. The U.S. and the Taliban are negotiating a reduction in hostilities or a cease-fire to allow the signing of a peace agreement. That deal would open the way to a broader post-war agreement for Afghans, and allow for the withdrawal of most, if not all, U.S. and coalition forces.

The country's post-war future and the role of the Taliban remains unclear. The Taliban currently control or hold sway over around half the country. Right now, the only places with enough security to offer winter sports activities are in Kabul and the central province of Bamiyan. Hayat said skiers and snowboarders haven't been able to explore mountains with great potential in Ghazni and Wardak provinces southwest of the capital because the Taliban hold those areas. Bamiyan province is infamous for once being home to two massive 1,500-year-old statues of Buddha carved into a mountain, which the Taliban blew up in 2001.

But Bamiyan also hosts a skiing competition each year, and the country's small snowboarding community is set to travel there for an indoor competition on Saturday. They're also heading east to neighboring Pakistan's picturesque Swat valley later this month to take part in an outdoor competition. Hayat has registered the Afghan chapter with the International Snowboard Federation, although the Afghan government offers no financial support. Faizi said he dreams of returning to train in Germany, and to one day represent Afghanistan in the Winter Olympics. But back on the slopes of Kohe Koregh, some young Afghans were excited to simply get their first taste of snowboarding. Zahra Hakimi, 16, is a member of the minority Hazara ethnic group. She came with friends to watch the snowboarders. She and another friend eventually decided to give it a shot. At first, Hakimi struggled to keep her balance, but eventually managed to go 10 meters (around 30 feet) at a time without falling. "When I see how crazy people are for this sport — girls and boys trying, falling down again and again but still keep doing it — I really believe it has a bright future," she said. □



In this Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 photo, Ahmad Soroush, 22, left, Nizaruddin Alizada, 20, Karim Faizi, 24, and Mohammad Farzad, 20, members of the Afghanistan Snowboarding Federation pose for photograph during a practice session on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan. Associated Press

As a teenager, he started out on a skateboard. Later, he bought a snowboard in neighboring Iran and taught himself how to ride it. Hayat said he's the first person to bring a snowboard into Afghanistan, and the first to try it there. These days, he and hand-

come for the free training on a snowy hillside west of the capital, often shrouded in pale grey mist. The mountain, known as Kohe Koregh, was used by the Afghan mujaheddin, or holy warriors, to rain artillery and rockets down on Kabul during the Afghan civil war

on about 60 centimeters (2 feet) of snow. They still have to share snowboards, and the hill has no lift facility. That means they've got to hike back up to the top after each run — a tiring process. While climbing back up the hill, Karim Faizi described his